

FACES

25 years later,
Carey's Christmas
original is No. 1
Page 14



MILITARY

Pair of roller derby
teams battle it out
at Camp Humphreys
Page 4



NFL

Brees sets career
TD mark as Saints
roll past Colts
Back page

Report: Significant growth in IED threat in Bahrain since 2013 » Page 5

STARS AND STRIPES®

stripes.com

Volume 78, No. 175 ©SS 2019

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2019

平成32年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)
発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥50

50¢/Free to Deployed Areas



Casualties of WAR

Unexploded land mines a tragic
legacy of conflict in Afghanistan

Page 6

ALTAF QADRI/AP

Abdullah, 13, who lost his left leg when he stepped on an improvised explosive device, takes a break from practicing walking with the help of a prosthesis at the International Committee of the Red Cross physical rehabilitation center in Kabul, Afghanistan, earlier this month.

McConnell rejects Dem push on impeachment trial witnesses

By LISA MASCARO
AND MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is rejecting the Democrats' push for fresh impeachment testimony against President Donald Trump and making a last-ditch plea for them to "turn back from the cliff" of Wednesday's

expected vote to send the case to the Senate for trial.

McConnell's remarks Tuesday effectively slammed the door shut on negotiations for a deal proposed by the Democratic leader, Sen. Chuck Schumer, who wants to call top White House officials for the Senate trial, which is set to start next year if the House impeaches Trump this week.

"If House Democrats' case is this defi-

cient, this thin, the answer is not for the judge and jury to cure it here in the Senate," McConnell said. "The answer is that the House should not impeach on this basis in the first place."

Schumer's proposal was the first overture in what were expected to be negotiations between the two leaders over the contours of a weeklong trial. Trump wants a more showy proceeding to not only

acquit but vindicate him of the impeachment charges from the House, though he has instructed officials not to appear in the House.

McConnell and most GOP senators prefer a swift trial to move on from impeachment. Many centrist House Democrats have begun to signal that they, too, are ready to vote and move on.

SEE IMPEACHMENT ON PAGE 8

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Amazon bans using FedEx for some deliveries

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Amazon is banning its third-party merchants from using FedEx's ground service to deliver to Prime members, suggesting that it thinks the service is too slow to get packages to their destinations in time for Christmas.

The temporary ban will block those companies from using FedEx Ground service, although they can still use pricier FedEx Express shipping for Prime

shipments.

More than half of the items sold on Amazon.com come from third-party sellers who post their goods for sale on Amazon's online marketplace.

News of the ban was first reported by The Wall Street Journal.

FedEx Corp. said in a statement that the decision affects "a very small number of shippers" and said it "limits the options for those small businesses on some of the highest demand shipping

days in history, and may compromise their ability to meet customer demands and manage their businesses."

Amazon.com Inc. has been expanding its own delivery fleet in the past few years, hoping to rely less on UPS, FedEx and other delivery services.

FedEx severed ties with Amazon earlier this year, saying it wouldn't make ground or air deliveries for the online shopping giant. Third-party sellers were still able to use FedEx.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Switzerland (Franc)		0.9813
Euro costs (Dec. 18)	\$1.1436	Thailand (Baht)		30.23
Dollar buys (Dec. 18)	€0.8744	Turkey (New Lira)		4.8877
British pound (Dec. 18)	\$1.35	(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)		
Japanese yen (Dec. 18)	107.00	INTEREST RATES		
South Korean won (Dec. 18)	1,140.00	Prime rate		4.75
Commercial rates		Discount rate		2.25
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770	Federal funds market rate		1.55
British pound	\$1.3160	3-month bill		1.54
Canada (Dollar)	1.3166	30-year bond		2.31
China (Yuan)	6.9973			
Denmark (Krone)	6.7016			
Egypt (Pound)	16.0307			
Hong Kong	\$1.1152/8967			
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7880			
India (Rupee)	296.63			
Israel (Shekel)	3.4948			
Japan (Yen)	109.58			
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3035			
Norway (Krone)	9.0225			
Philippines (Peso)	50.58			
Poland (Zloty)	3.82			
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7506			
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3557			
South Korea (Won)	1,163.91			

WEATHER OUTLOOK



TODAY
IN STRIPES

American Roundup 11
Classified 12
Comics 15
Crossword 15
Faces 14
Opinion 16
Sports 17-24

STARS AND STRIPES

However you read us, wherever you need us.

Mobile • Online • Print

EUROPE

KRISTI KIMMEL | CustomerService@stripes.com | +49 (0) 631.3615.9111 DSN: 314.583.9111

MIDDLE EAST

KRISTI KIMMEL | CustomerService@stripes.com | +49 (0) 631.3615.9111 DSN: 314.583.9111

PACIFIC

ICHIRO KATAYANAGI | PacificAdvertising@stripes.com | CML +81 (42) 552.2511 ext. 77313 DSN: 227.7313

PCSing? STARS AND STRIPES RELOCATION GUIDE

Every Friday in the European and Pacific editions of Stars and Stripes AND online daily at www.stripes.com/relo

PACIFIC

Poll: Most S. Koreans support US alliance

Survey also shows many disapprove of sharp increase in cost-sharing

By KIM GAMEL
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The United States and South Korea began a fourth round of defense cost-sharing talks Tuesday, two weeks before the current contract is due to expire.

A new poll showed that most South Koreans support the alliance with the United States but reject U.S. demands for a five-fold increase in spending.

Negotiators are struggling to bridge the gap. The South balks at U.S. demands for nearly \$5 billion annually in return for stationing some 28,500 troops on the divided peninsula. Last year Seoul paid about \$920 million.

The rare public dispute has raised concerns about a rift in the longstanding U.S.-South Korean alliance. Meanwhile, tensions over North Korea's nuclear weapons program are rising amid a breakdown in diplomatic efforts on that front.

The talks in Seoul were scheduled to end Wednesday. Any agreement must be ratified by South Korea's National Assembly.

Many experts predicted a repeat of last year, when the two sides failed to meet the Dec. 31 deadline but continued talks and

reached a retroactive agreement.

"If the two countries don't reach an agreement in the defense cost-sharing talks, we can't rule out the possibility of the reduction of U.S. forces in Korea, or their complete withdrawal," James Kim, a researcher at South Korea's Asian Institute for Policy Studies, said Tuesday at a conference in Seoul.

Still, 92% of South Koreans polled last week by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs said they support the alliance, and 74% said they support the long-term stationing of U.S. soldiers in South Korea.

The poll, which was conducted Dec. 9-11 in South Korea, however, showed a clear rejection of President Donald Trump's demands for the South to sharply increase spending.

The think tank said 68% of those polled said "South Korea should negotiate a lower cost than the \$4.7 billion request made by the United States." Among those respondents, 60% said the amount should remain below \$1.7 billion.

The survey, which was conducted by Hankook Research in South Korea and funded by a grant from the Korea Foundation, polled a representative national sample of 1,000 South Korean adults and had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1%.

The U.S. has not confirmed the \$4.7 billion figure, but South Korean officials have released the amount and said Washington wants to justify it by reconfiguring the Special Measures Agreement, as the contract is known, to include indirect costs such as the deployment of warships, planes and

'I firmly believe ... don't give up the alliance for a couple dollars.'

Retired Gen. Walter Sharp
former commander of U.S. Forces Korea

preparations for joint military exercises.

Last month U.S. negotiators led by State Department official James DeHart walked out of a meeting, saying the South Korean proposals "were not responsive to our request for fair and equitable burden sharing."

South Korean anti-American activists also have stepped up protests, accusing the Americans of "extortion" and of monetizing the alliance, which long has been considered a linchpin of regional security again threats from North Korea and China.

South Korea has helped pay for U.S. troops under the agreement since 1991, with most of the funds used for local labor providing food, administrative and logistical support, as well as construction costs.

Under a separate agreement, Seoul also paid more than 90% of the \$11 billion-plus construction costs for expanding Camp Humphreys, the U.S. military's new headquarters base south of Seoul.

Talks on renewing the Special Measures Agreement, which were usually held every five years, have always been contentious. The two sides missed the Dec. 31 deadline

in 2013 but reached a deal a few weeks later, with South Korea increasing its contribution by 5.8%.

But this time Trump has brought to the table his "America First" policy and general insistence that U.S. allies need to pay more for their own defense.

A former commander of U.S. Forces Korea, retired Gen. Walter Sharp, said the calculations in determining the increase were traditionally based on inflation and the need for South Korea paying nearly half of the nonpersonnel costs for U.S. troops.

Sharp argued that South Korea's overall contribution to U.S. interests should be taken into consideration, including the fact that it sent troops to Iraq and Afghanistan, is a major trading partner and has dedicated about 2.8% of its gross domestic product to defense.

"On the one hand President Trump says countries should be standing up to defend themselves; well, South Korea is clearly, clearly doing that," he said at a recent Korea Economic Institute forum in Washington.

"I firmly believe ... don't give up the alliance for a couple dollars," he said. "Because at the end of the day North Korea will end up doing what North Korea does; China will end up doing what they're going to do, but the alliance has got to stay strong."

gamel.kim@stripes.com
Twitter: @kingamel
chang.kyong@stripes.com

New Guam to Seattle route aims to reduce PCS, pet-shipping costs

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

The Defense Department plans to add charter flights between Guam's Andersen Air Force Base and Seattle-Tacoma International Airport starting next spring, officials announced Monday.

The flights, part of a service called the Patriot Express, will begin in March on a bi-weekly, proof-of-concept basis for six months, according to a statement on the Andersen website. The Guam-Seattle route was added to help military families defray costs associated with changing duty stations and traveling with pets.

A lack of carrier options and restrictions makes it difficult and expensive to ship pets to and from the U.S. island territory. In January, a Navy family turned to online fundraising to help pay the \$11,592 cost of transporting two German shepherds to Guam from Virginia.

"The Patriot Express will provide a much-needed service to the military families on Guam," Cindi Boswell, wife of the 36th Wing commander, Brig. Gen. Gentry Boswell, said in the statement. "Relying on commercial airlines during a [permanent change of station] to Guam can be



A dog that traveled on a Patriot Express flight sits in its kennel inside the passenger terminal at Yokota in 2018.

extremely expensive, especially if the family is going to be moving with pets."

The Patriot Express — sometimes referred to as the Rotator or Cat B flight — is a Defense Department-contracted charter that ferries travelers on official duty to U.S. military installations around the globe. Common destinations include the continental United States, Hawaii, Alaska, Japan and South Korea as well as bases across Europe.

The Patriot Express also provides space-available opportunities for eligible passengers.

The new route will include a servicing stop in Hawaii, but passengers and cargo will not be per-



PHOTOS BY GABRIELLE SPALDING/U.S. Air Force

Patriot Express passengers wait for their luggage at Yokota Air Base, Japan, in 2018. The Defense Department is adding bi-weekly flights between Guam and Seattle in the spring to help reduce military costs tied to changing duty stations and traveling with pets.

mitted to disembark at that time, the statement said.

"Flying back to the states from Guam can be very expensive," Boswell said in the statement. "For our junior Airmen, the cost can sometimes be too high to make a trip home for holidays or special events but with the rotator coming through on a consistent basis, we hope that the increased Space-A travel opportunity will open that door for our Airmen and their families to make it home

more easily."

Military members and their dependents making a permanent change of station or on temporary duty should make travel reservations through their installation transportation office, as should families changing duty stations with pets, the statement said.

Families changing stations are permitted to travel with two animals, restricted to dogs and cats, and are responsible for meeting all shipping and country entry

requirements. Capacity is limited based on the carrier's cargo configuration.

Pet transport is not authorized for Space-A travel, the statement said.

Andersen officials will post flight schedules for the route on the Andersen Passenger Terminal Facebook page.

burke.matt@stripes.com
Twitter: @MatthewMBurke1

PACIFIC

Full-contact Christmas

Holiday-themed roller derby teams battle at Camp Humphreys

By MATTHEW KEELER
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Nearly a dozen of the toughest women from Camp Humphreys and nearby Osan Air Base recently laced up their skates for a full-contact roller derby scrimmage at Humphreys' Collier Community Fitness Center.

Taking on a holiday theme, the Gingerbread Brawlers faced off on Saturday against the Candy Cane Crushers in a 60-minute matchup that put close friends at odds — but all in good fun.

With track names like Bombastic, Krankewagen, Elinor Bashgood and Wreck It Wanda, the women delivered an energy-packed short track derby on the gym's basketball court but put the Brawlers on top of the Crushers, 77 to 68.

Both squads are part of the Osan-Humphreys Roller Derby Team, which has about 25 members, including active-duty military, reservists, spouses, contractors and civilians.

Army Maj. Priscella Nohle, team manager and an operations officer with the 2nd Infantry Division at Humphreys, said the club aims to introduce roller derby to new people while providing the experienced players a chance to improve their skills while stationed overseas. No experience or equipment is required to join.

"We are very close; it's a group of women that are completely honest and open with each other, so there is no trying to one-up each other," said Nohle, who's known as Thor's Jammer on the track. "We are all trying to be supportive of one another as opposed to

'Getting my footing and actually being hit while on skates is a whole different ballgame.'

Erin Peacock
military spouse and recent addition to roller derby team

knocking each other down."

Nohle selects players based on skill level to divide into two squads for each scrimmage. Because not everyone is on the same level, the team plays matches only from within to continue growth.

"The first thing we do with someone new to the game is to teach them three basic skills," Nohle said. "How to do a knee tap, knee slide and plow stop. If they can do those three skills, then they are level one."

To mitigate the risk of injury to themselves and others on the track, players must progress to level four before participating in a game.

"It seems silly but when you do that progression you are developing those skills needed to be stable on skates to the point you're not going to hurt anyone," Nohle said.

The newest member on the track Saturday was Erin Peacock, 36, a military spouse at Humphreys who joined the team in March. The Washington native said she grew up on skates as a girl and it was her favorite thing to do.

"When I found out there was a sport on skates, I just jumped right into it and loved it," Peacock said. "I've never done anything competitive like this before, so getting my footing and actually being hit while on skates is a

whole different ballgame."

The scrimmages, which are usually hosted at Humphreys, are free for anyone to attend. The next is slated for late February.

keeler.matthew@stripes.com
Twitter: @MattKeeler1231



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW KEELER/Stars and Stripes

Top: Players from the Candy Cane Crushers try to block a member of the Gingerbread Brawlers in a roller derby scrimmage Saturday at Collier Community Fitness Center on Camp Humphreys, South Korea. **Above:** The Gingerbread Brawlers, in the black shirts, and Candy Cane Crushers compete.

Pearl Harbor shooter's family offers sympathy

HONOLULU — The family of a U.S. Navy sailor who shot three civilian shipyard workers at the Pearl Harbor military base before killing himself offered condolences to the families of the victims Monday.

Gabriel Antonio Romero, of San Antonio Texas, killed Roldan Agustín, 49, and Vincent Kapoi Jr., 30, and wounded Roger Nakamine, 36, in the Dec. 4 shooting at the Hawaii base, authorities said.

"The family knows none of their words can replace your lost loved ones or assuage your pain but hopes that you may find strength and solace over the coming months and years," said the statement released by Phil Meyer, a San Antonio lawyer acting as a spokesman for Romero's family.

Romero, 22, was laid to rest Monday, the statement said.

Romero's job was to stand watch and provide security for the submarine USS Columbia. A motive has not been determined.

From The Associated Press



GoFundMe

This screenshot shows Janet Castillo, left, who was struck by a motorcycle and then hit by a vehicle Saturday near Sasebo Naval Base, Japan.

By JAMES BOLINGER
Stars and Stripes

A crowdfunding campaign started by the family of a gravely injured sailor assigned to a base in Japan exceeded its \$10,000 goal in less than 24 hours.

The GoFundMe page identifies the sailor as Janet Castillo, 20, who enlisted in the Navy in September 2018 and has been stationed at Sasebo Naval Base since March. Her rank and hometown were not available Tuesday.

According to the post, which was started Monday by Castillo's mother, Melissa Rodriguez, the sailor was leaving a Christmas gathering Saturday when she was struck by a motorcycle and then run over by another vehicle.

Task Force 76 spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Kristine Volk confirmed Tuesday that Castillo is being treated for injuries suffered in an accident outside Sasebo's main gate just before midnight.

Castillo underwent surgery Tuesday on her right leg and hip, according to the GoFundMe post. She will have surgery again Wednesday on her left leg and hip.

The Navy would not confirm Castillo's injuries, citing privacy concerns.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with this Sailor, family and friends and all who are affected

by this tragic incident," Volk said.

The funds raised will support her family's stay in Japan while Castillo recovers.

"The U.S. Navy has advised me as her mother, to travel to Japan to be by my daughter's side," wrote Rodriguez, who was flying to Japan from Pearlland, Texas.

"I am having to leave my job, and my family behind to be at Janet's bedside. Although the U.S. Navy will pay for my travel arrangements and my stay in Japan, they will only compensate for me, as I am her only emergency contact. We need help to raise funds to bring a second family member to travel with me and help me and my daughter get through this tragedy."

More than \$12,300 had been pledged by more than 180 donors as of Tuesday evening in Japan.

"Thank you thank you thank you all so very much! I am in awe of the outpour of your support and generosity," Rodriguez wrote in an update posted Tuesday. "You all have done for us something that we will never be able to repay you for! I pray that every one of you are blessed!"

Attempts to reach the family for comment were not immediately successful.

bolinger.james@stripes.com
Twitter: @bolingerj2004

WAR/MILITARY

Report: IED threat in Bahrain has grown since 2013

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

Militants in Bahrain have obtained sophisticated bomb components like those Iran has allegedly been supplying to Houthi rebels in Yemen, researchers have found.

Security forces in the island kingdom, home to a major U.S. Navy base, have recovered components for radio-controlled improvised explosive devices, infrared sensors used to trigger IEDs, military-grade explosives and more, which suggest increased capabilities and links to Iran-backed supply networks, the London-based Conflict Armament Research said in a report released Tuesday.

"Between 2012 and 2018, the [IED] threat in Bahrain grew significantly as materiel recovered from militant groups illustrated an evolution of capabilities and access to resources," the report states.

The components found were identical or similar to Iranian materiel recovered from the Jihan 1, says the report, referring to a cargo vessel interdicted by U.S. Navy and Yemeni coast guard forces in January 2013.

The cargo ship was allegedly headed for a Houthi stronghold in Yemen and crewed partly by members of Hezbollah and Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the report said.

Its cargo included C-4 explosives, small-arms ammunition, rocket-propelled grenades, surface-to-air missile systems, IED components, night-vision goggles and electric detonators, the report found.

The materiel recovered in Bahrain was typically concealed among shipments of conventional weapons, the report states. Smugglers often appeared to have tried to hide the materiel's origins by grinding off identifying marks, which CAR said is a hallmark of IED components found in Yemen.

Both Bahrain and Yemen were convulsed by protests during the Arab Spring in 2011, but while unrest in Yemen escalated to a yearslong civil war, Bahrain has managed to avoid a similar fate.

The kingdom, which has supported the Saudi-led coalition

to restore the government in Yemen, is an important U.S. ally in the region, hosting some 7,000 American troops, mostly sailors, and the headquarters of the Navy's 5th Fleet. It has also supported U.S. operations against Islamic State in Syria, but government repression of opposition groups has "presented a policy dilemma for the United States," said a report published by the Congressional Research Service last month.

Teams of CAR investigators went to Bahrain in July 2017 and April 2018 to examine and document the materiel seized from militants.

In 2011 and 2012, the investigators say in the CAR report, militant groups in Bahrain used "crude, domestically manufactured" IEDs. But starting in 2013, there was "a significant change in the sophistication of weapons and related materiel available to militant factions in Bahrain."

They can now make explosively formed penetrators — a weapon that can cut through some armor — and directional fragmentation charges, the researchers say.

They also appear to have acquired radio-controlled IED circuit boards and complex weapons kits from outside Bahrain that resemble those used in Iraq, where Iran-backed militias have been fighting ISIS but have also attacked U.S. forces.

The findings come amid growing tensions in the Persian Gulf region after President Donald Trump backed out of the Obama administration's nuclear agreement with the regime in Tehran. Trump has called it a bad deal and has stepped up pressure on Iran to renegotiate the agreement.

Last summer, Tehran and Washington seemed poised for conflict, with drones downed by both sides over the course of several weeks and the Pentagon announcing deployments of thousands more troops to the region, along with aircraft and other equipment.

garland.chad@stripes.com
Twitter: @chadgarland



German service members will be allowed to travel for free on trains in Germany if they are in uniform.

JONAS WEEBER
German armed forces

German service members will be able to ride country's trains free

By MARCUS KLOECKNER
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — German service members in uniform and their children will be allowed to travel for free on trains in Germany beginning next month.

Germany's minister of defense and the head of Deutsche Bahn came to an agreement Monday in Berlin, allowing military members from each branch to ride all of the national railroad service's trains at no cost, together with their children up to the age of 14. Spouses will still have to pay their own way, a German Defense Ministry spokeswoman said Tuesday.

The goal of the project is to make the soldiers "more visible" and better recognized as part of society, a Defense Ministry statement said.

Defense Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer hopes that when more service members take trains, they'll have "more positive conversations" with civilians, the statement said.

U.S. European Command regulations generally prohibit the more than 35,000 U.S. service members in Germany from wearing uniforms on commercial trains for security reasons.

The German service members are required to carry their military ID card with them while using the trains. Allowing the country's 180,000 service members to ride the rails for free, on second-class tickets, is projected to cost up to \$4.4 million annually.

The agreement covers only Deutsche Bahn trains, but the Defense Ministry said it will soon negotiate with privately owned

railroad companies that offer regional services.

The initiative to raise the German military's profile comes as the U.S. has repeatedly criticized its NATO ally for not contributing more to defense spending.

Kramp-Karrenbauer, leader of Chancellor Angela Merkel's political party and considered a possible successor, announced last month that Germany would increase its defense spending by tens of billions of dollars over the coming years. It is expected to spend 2% of its gross domestic product on defense by 2031, seven years after the alliance's target year.

kloeckner.marcus@stripes.com

Corrections

■ In a Dec. 17 story about U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham discussing a possible U.S. troop drawdown in Afghanistan, The Associated Press erroneously attributed to U.S. military spokesman Sonny Leggett a statement that five service members from the U.S. and the country of Georgia were slightly injured in last week's Taliban attack near Bagram Airfield. It was U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo who put the number of international coalition soldiers injured in the attack at five, and the information about the nationalities of the injured came from a coalition statement.

■ In a Dec. 12 story about Iraqi protests, The Associated Press, citing Iraqi officials, erroneously reported that a 16-year-old had shot and killed six people, including four anti-government protesters, before he himself was killed and hanged from a traffic pole in a Baghdad square. The AP has found no evidence to support the initial claims that the teen had committed killings before being killed.

MILITARY DISCOUNTS

SPECIAL FARES WITH OUR PARTNERS



in partnership with



MILITARY FLIGHTS

For all Military active, Reservist, Veterans and their family members:

Detroit	✈	from € 797
New York	✈	from € 696
Washington	✈	from € 816
Washington	✈	from € 836

Other special prices possible from all other airports.

Hotline: +49 (0) 621-72920

internet@abctravel.de

www.abctravel.de

Flights from Jul. 24, 2020 to Aug. 5, 2020. RT to all German airports. Prices starting from, including all taxes, based on availability. Get Military discount fares all year! ABC Travel Service e.K., Gorkheimstr. 9, 68309 Mannheim

'(Starting in 2013, there was) a significant change in the sophistication of weapons and related materiel available to militant factions in Bahrain.'

Conflict Armament Research report



wahlburgers

RAMSTEIN

IS HIRING!

Cashiers, Cooks, Prep, Dishwashers

Apply now at info.wahlgermany.com
www.wahlburgers.com

WAR ON TERRORISM

Afghanistan still littered with land mines

Children constitute the majority of victims of unexploded ordnance

By ALTAF QADRI
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — When 9-year-old Eimal stepped out of his home in the Panjshir Valley in northeastern Afghanistan, he had no way of knowing that his life was about to change.

He was playing in a field near his home when he stumbled upon what looked to him like a strange toy. But when he reached with his hands to pick it up there was a loud bang and Eimal was thrown several yards across the field, blood seemingly everywhere.

Eimal, who like many Afghans uses only one name, had just picked up one of millions of unexploded land mines scattered across war-torn Afghanistan — a legacy of more than 40 years of war.

Afghanistan has the unenviable reputation of being among the countries with the most unexploded land mines and other ordnance. According to the United Nations, there are 150 land mine casualties a month in Afghanistan. Eight of every 10 casualties is a child who inadvertently picks up an unexploded ordnance. Some are even made to resemble toys.

Eimal's father, Ismatullah, rushed his son to a local hospital, which was able to provide only basic first aid. Eimal was quickly transferred to the Italian-run Emergency Surgical Center for Civilian War Victims in the Afghan capital of Kabul.

The center treats Afghanistan's many war wounded. An international organization, it was founded in 1994 and provides free, high-quality health care to victims of war; whether they be wounded by land mines or caught in the brutal fighting between the country's warring sides. They also train local medical staff.

Eimal lost his right eye and several fingers.

He shares his hospital ward with other child victims. Masiullah, a teenager from Wardak province, lost both his legs in a U.S. airstrike in October this year.

A new report by the U.N. children's agency, released Tuesday, says that in the first nine months of this year, nine children were killed or maimed every day as a result of war — an 11% increase from the same period in 2018. UNICEF blames the increase on a "surge in suicide bomb attacks and ground" fighting.

"Even by Afghanistan's grim standards, 2019 has been particularly deadly for children," said UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore. "Children, their families and communities suffer the horrific consequences of conflict each and every day."

At the International Committee

of the Red Cross' rehabilitation center in Kabul, Abdullah, 13, is still getting used to his prosthesis. He lost his left leg when he stepped on an improvised explosive device in Maymana in northwestern Afghanistan.

Abdullah comes regularly to the center to practice walking with the help of a prosthesis. He is one of 46,194 amputees registered with the ICRC in Afghanistan.

Since the ICRC began its rehabilitation program in Afghanistan in 1988, more than 177,000 people, including more than 46,000 amputees, have been treated at its centers across the country. Among the amputees registered, 77% were land mine victims and 70% of those were civilians.

The harm inflicted by more than four decades of war has been cumulative.

Between 2009 and 2018, nearly 6,500 children were killed and almost 15,000 others injured, helping make Afghanistan the world's most lethal war zone in 2018, the report said.



PHOTOS BY ALTAF QADRI/AP

Ismatullah attends to his son Eimal, 9, who lost his right eye and several fingers in a land mine blast, at the Emergency Surgical Center for Civilian War Victims in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Thursday.

According to the U.N., there are 150 land mine casualties a month in Afghanistan.



Clockwise from below: Farshid, 13, cries while lying on a hospital bed at the surgical center Thursday; orthopedic staff at the International Committee of the Red Cross physical rehabilitation center in Kabul flank Abdullah, 13, this month as they adjust the prosthesis he wears after he lost his left leg when he stepped on an improvised explosive device; doctors prepare to amputate the leg of a land mine victim at the surgical center Dec. 5.



MILITARY



STEPHEN B. MORTON, ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/AP

Fran Bitter, a volunteer with the Patriot Guard Riders of Georgia, salutes sailors as they enter a funeral service for Navy Airman Apprentice Cameron Scott Walters in Savannah, Ga., on Monday.

Pensacola victim laid to rest in Ga.

Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. — One of the young Navy sailors killed in a Saudi gunman's attack at a Florida base had boundless energy and a fierce loyalty to family and friends in Georgia that will make him "the most amazing guardian angel," some of those closest to the slain sailor told hundreds at his funeral Monday.

Roughly 400 people, including dozens of uniformed service members, gathered at Compassion Christian Church in Savannah to remember Airman Apprentice Cameron Scott Walters, 21, of neighboring Richmond Hill. His casket, draped with an American flag, stood at the front of a stage adorned with Christmas trees.

Walters was among three sailors killed Dec. 6 when a gunman opened fire at Naval Air Station Pensacola. Federal authorities said the gunman also wounded eight other people before a sheriff's deputy killed him.

The slain sailor's father, Shane Walters, has said his son had recently arrived in Florida after

completing boot camp and was standing watch at the entrance of a classroom building where the attack occurred.

Hunter Cannon, one of Walters' best friends, spoke through tears during the service as he described Walters as his brother — not by blood, but by choice.

"Although we lost someone as amazing as Cameron, we got the most amazing guardian angel you could ask for."

Family friend Shawn Hygh said that from a young age Walters liked to work on cars in the garage with his father, sometimes snatching tools and saying, "Daddy, I got this."

Walters' funeral followed a somber homecoming Saturday when people holding American flags lined a main street in Walters' hometown as his casket arrived, escorted by motorcycle riders. Similar scenes played out over the weekend in Alabama and Florida as the bodies of Ensign Joshua Kaleb Watson, 23, and Airman Mohammed Shaded Haitham, 19, came home.

Flaw with Lockheed's \$31B Marine helo solved, US says

Bloomberg

Lockheed Martin has solved a major flaw with the U.S. Marine Corps' new King Stallion helicopter that threatened to undercut congressional support for the \$31 billion program.

The Lockheed-led project "has successfully tested a modification to the aircraft's exhaust system" to solve the problem of hot engine exhaust being sucked back into one of the aircraft's three engines, Megan Wasel, a spokeswoman for Naval Air Systems Command, said in an email Monday.

The Democratic chairman and top Republican on the House Armed Services Committee,

Reps. Adam Smith, a Washington Democrat, and Mac Thornberry, a Texas Republican, wrote the Defense Department earlier this year citing the exhaust problem as a key reason to resist the Defense Department's request to shift \$79 million in fiscal 2019 funds to the helicopter program from elsewhere in the budget.

The lawmakers agreed in July to shift the money based on assurances of progress.

The problem has been dealt with early in the program. The Marines want to buy 200 King Stallions. Only 20, including six test aircraft, are currently on contract.

STARS AND STRIPES.

LETTERS TO SANTA

STARS AND STRIPES EUROPE IS HELPING YOUR CHILDREN GET THEIR LETTERS TO SANTA!

Send your letters to:

SANTA CLAUS

C/O STARS AND STRIPES

NORTH POLE

and drop it in any US or APO mailbox*

*Postmark by Dec. 24th and Santa may have time to send a note in return!

visit letterstosanta.stripes.com for more info

NATION

Giuliani: Trump 'relied on' claims about envoy

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Rudy Giuliani, President Donald Trump's personal lawyer, says he provided the president with information that the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine was impeding investigations that could benefit Trump politically. Within weeks, she was recalled from her post.

In an interview with The New York Times, Giuliani portrayed himself as directly involved in the effort to oust Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch, and he provided details indicating Trump's knowledge of that effort.

Giuliani's interview, published Tuesday, comes as Trump is facing near-certain impeachment Wednesday by the House for abuse of power over his pressure on Ukraine to announce investigations of Democrats while he was withholding aid to the Eastern European nation.

Giuliani said he passed along information to Trump "a couple

of times" about how Yovanovitch had frustrated efforts that could help Trump, including efforts to have Ukraine investigate political rival Joe Biden.

Trump, in turn, passed the information on to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Giuliani said. Within weeks, Yovanovitch was told Trump had lost trust in her and she was recalled as ambassador.

Trump has said he did nothing wrong and his pressure on Ukraine was aimed at rooting out corruption there.

Early last year, Giuliani said, he told Trump that Yovanovitch was impeding investigations in Ukraine that could benefit Trump.

"There's a lot of reasons to move her," Giuliani told The Times. He said Trump and Pompeo "relied on" his information, likely leading to Yovanovitch's ouster last April.

"I just gave them the facts," Giuliani said. "I mean, did I think

'I forced her out because she's corrupt.'

Rudy Giuliani

President Donald Trump's personal lawyer

she should be recalled? I thought she should have been fired. If I was attorney general, I would have kicked her out. I mean — secretary of state."

Testimony in the Trump impeachment inquiry showed that the claims about Yovanovitch were either unsubstantiated or taken out of context.

In the Times interview, Giuliani portrayed himself as directly involved in the effort to derail Yovanovitch's career. He said he told Trump and Pompeo that Yovanovitch was blocking visas for Ukrainian prosecutors

to come to the United States to present evidence that he claimed could be damaging to Biden and his son Hunter Biden, who served on the board of a Ukrainian gas company.

"I think I had pointed out to the president a couple of times, I reported to the president, what I had learned about the visa denials," Giuliani said, as well as claims that she ordered one Ukrainian prosecutor to drop cases.

According to an article published Monday in The New York Times, Giuliani said that he needed Yovanovitch "out of the way" and that she "was going to make the investigations difficult for everybody."

"I forced her out because she's corrupt," Giuliani told Fox News on Monday. He claimed that Yovanovitch "committed perjury" when she said she turned down the visa requests for a prosecutor because he was corrupt. Giuliani claimed he had witnesses "who will testify that she personally

turned down their visas because they were going to come here and give evidence either against Biden or against the Democratic Party."

Yovanovitch, testifying in October in defiance of Trump, said there was a "concerted campaign" against her based on "unfounded and false claims by people with clearly questionable motives."

In a tweet Tuesday, Giuliani insisted, "Yovanovitch needed to be removed for many reasons most critical she was denying visas to Ukrainians who wanted to come to US and explain Dem corruption in Ukraine. She was OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE and that's not the only thing she was doing. She at minimum enabled Ukrainian collusion."

Trump and his allies falsely claim that Ukraine interfered in the 2016 election. The special counsel's investigation, as well as U.S. intelligence agencies, found that Russia, not Ukraine, meddled in the election.

Impeachment: Handful of Democrats expected to break ranks on key vote Wednesday

FROM FRONT PAGE

Senate Democrats want to hear from John Bolton, Mick Mulvaney and others as the proceedings push to the chamber for the trial.

"Why is the leader, why is the president so afraid to have these witnesses come testify?" asked Schumer from the Senate floor. "They certainly ought to be heard."

House Democrats are to vote Wednesday to impeach Trump, formally accusing him of abusing his power as president in dealing with Ukraine to help himself politically and then obstructing Congress by blocking the later investigation.

What Democrats once hoped would be a bipartisan act — only the third time in U.S. history the House will be voting to impeach a president — was on track toward a starkly partisan roll call Wednesday. No Republicans were breaking with the president, and almost all Democrats were expected to approve the charges against him.

The House Rules Committee was meeting Tuesday in what was expected to be a marathon session to set the parameters for Wednesday's debate.

It's unfortunate that we have to be here today, but the president's actions make it necessary," said Chairman Jim McGovern, D-Mass., as he gavelled the session open. "The evidence is as clear as it is overwhelming."

Trump faces two articles of impeachment brought by Democrats. They say he abused the power of his office by pressuring Ukraine to investigate Demo-

cratic rival Joe Biden ahead of the 2020 election and obstructed Congress by aggressively trying to block the House investigation from its oversight duties as part of the nation's system of checks and balances.

The president "betrayed the Nation by abusing his high office to enlist a foreign power in corrupting democratic elections," says the 650-page report from the House Judiciary Committee. He withheld military aid from the ally as leverage, the report says, and "Trump, by such conduct, has demonstrated that he will remain a threat to national security and the Constitution if allowed to remain in office."

The report says the president then engaged in an unprecedented attempt to block the investigation and "cover up" his misconduct. The report also includes Republican rebuttals.

A raucous town hall Monday in the Detroit suburbs put on display the nation's wrenching debate over the unconventional president and the prospect of removing him from office. Freshman Democratic Rep. Elissa Slotkin was both heckled and celebrated as she announced her support for impeachment, one of a cascade of Democratic House members who are now saying they will vote to impeach.

"There's certainly a lot of controversy about this," Slotkin acknowledged to the crowd of 400. "But there just has to be a moment where you use the letter of the law for what it's intended."

Trump, tweeting from the sidelines after instructing the White House not to participate in the



ANDREW HARRIN/AP

House Rules Committee Chairman Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass., right, and ranking member Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla., lead a hearing on the impeachment against President Donald Trump on Tuesday.

House inquiry, insisted anew he had done nothing wrong. He has promoted lawyer Rudy Giuliani's investigation of Biden and a widely debunked theory that it was actually Ukraine not Russia that interfered in the 2016 election, a conspiracy-laden idea that most other Republicans have actively avoided. "He knows what he's doing," Trump said of Giuliani at the White House.

Americans are not fooled, Trump tweeted on Tuesday, by the "Scams and Witch Hunts, as phony as they are."

As the House prepared for Wednesday's vote, many Democrats announced they would be voting for impeachment. A handful or even fewer are expected to break ranks as Speaker Nancy Pelosi marches her majority toward a vote she hoped to avoid having Democrats take on their own. One freshman Democrat,

Rep. Jeff Van Drew, of New Jersey, saw several staff members resign Monday after he said he would vote against impeachment and indicated he was switching parties to become a Republican. Another Democrat, Rep. Collin Peterson, a Minnesota centrist, had not decided how he will vote, his spokeswoman said.

As the House was detailing its case against the nation's 45th president, attention was turning to the Senate where the top Democrat, Schumer, of New York, called anew for fresh evidence and testimony from key White House officials for the Senate impeachment trial.

In a letter to McConnell, Schumer proposed hearing testimony from former national security adviser Bolton, acting White House chief of staff Mulvaney and two others as part of a detailed offer he made to Republicans as an

opening offer for negotiations.

Several Senate Republicans rejected that idea late Monday, saying the House should have gone to court to force those witnesses to testify over the White House's objections if Democrats wanted to hear from them.

Bolton, who left the White House in September, once labeled the alternative foreign policy orchestrated by Trump lawyer Giuliani a "drug deal" he wanted no part of. Mulvaney has acknowledged the military aid to Ukraine was being held up. The aid was later released as Congress raised questions about the holdup.

McConnell is facing criticism for saying he's taking his "cues" from the White House for the expected trial. Republicans say Schumer acted much the same two decades ago when the Senate prepared to vote on President Bill Clinton.

NATION



CALEB JONES/AP

Hawaii Emergency Management Agency officials work at the department's command center in Honolulu in 2017. A defense bill expected to be passed by the U.S. Senate takes away the authority for notifying residents of incoming missiles from local emergency managers.

Bill aims to avoid repeat of false alert in Hawaii

By AUSELY McAVOY

Associated Press

HONOLULU — A defense bill expected to be passed by the U.S. Senate on Tuesday seeks to prevent local government agencies from mistakenly warning residents of a ballistic missile attack the way Hawaii did nearly two years ago.

The legislation includes a provision giving the U.S. government, not local authorities, the job of notifying residents of incoming missile threats.

U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz authored the measure after officials in his home state blasted cellphone and broadcast alerts warning a ballistic missile was heading toward the islands.

"It was a terrifying experience for many of us," Schatz said of the day when many in Hawaii believed they would perish in a nuclear catastrophe. "And we're hopeful that this change in the law puts that chapter behind us for good."

Schatz said local officials aren't the ones to know whether the country is at war. He said the authorities who know should be the ones to inform the public.

The House last week passed the bill, the National Defense Authorization Act, which includes the missile alert measure. The Senate voted Tuesday to send the mea-

sure to President Donald Trump, who was expected to sign it.

The false alerts from the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency read "BALLISTIC MISSILE THREAT INBOUND TO HAWAII. SEEK IMMEDIATE SHELTER. THIS IS NOT A DRILL." They triggered widespread panic as more than 1 million residents and visitors feared they were about to face a ballistic missile strike.

Several months earlier the agency had launched a new effort to notify residents of any missile threats. The initiative began in response to growing concerns that North Korea was developing nuclear weapons and long-range missiles capable of reaching Hawaii.

But a Hawaii Department of Defense review conducted after the botched alert found officials failed to fully develop their plans for these warnings before launching the program.

The alert went out on Jan. 13, 2018, because an emergency management agency employee mistakenly sent it during a shift-change drill.

Officials later disclosed the employee didn't think he and his colleagues were participating in a drill and instead believed a real attack was imminent. The state fired him.

By ANDREW TAYLOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Democratic-controlled House voted Tuesday to pass a \$1.4 trillion government-wide spending package, handing President Donald Trump a victory on his U.S.-Mexico border fence while giving Democrats spending increases across a swath of domestic programs.

The hard-fought legislation also funds a recent Pentagon budget and is serving as a must-pass legislative locomotive to tow an unusually large haul of unrelated provisions into law, including an expensive repeal of Obama-era taxes on high-cost health plans, help for retired coal miners, and an increase from 18 to 21 in nationwide legal age to buy tobacco products.

The two-bill package, some 2,371 pages long after additional tax provisions were folded in on Tuesday morning, was unveiled Monday afternoon and adopted less than 24 hours later as lawmakers prepared to wrap up reams of unfinished work against a backdrop of Wednesday's vote on impeaching President Donald Trump.

The House first passed a measure funding domestic programs on a 297-120 vote.

But one-third of the Democrats defected on a 280-138 vote on the second bill, which funds the military and the Department of Homeland Security, mostly because it funds Trump's border wall project.

The spending legislation would forestall a government shutdown this weekend and give Trump steady funding for his U.S.-Mexico border fence, a move that frustrated Hispanic Democrats and party liberals.

The year-end package is anchored by a \$1.4 trillion spending measure that caps a difficult, monthslong battle over spending

priorities.

The mammoth measure made public Monday takes a split-the-differences approach that's a product of divided power in Washington, offering lawmakers of all stripes plenty to vote for — and against. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., was a driving force, along with administration pragmatists such as Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, who negotiated the summertime budget deal that it implements.

The White House said Tuesday that Trump will sign the measure.

"The president is poised to sign it and to keep the government open," said top White House adviser Kellyanne Conway.

The bill would also increase the age nationwide for purchasing tobacco products from 18 to 21, and offers business-friendly provisions on export financing, flood insurance and immigrant workers.

The roster of add-ons grew over the weekend to include permanent repeal of a tax on high-cost "Cadillac" health insurance benefits and a hard-won provision to finance health care and pension benefits for about 100,000 retired union coal miners threatened by the insolvency of their pension fund. A tax on medical devices and health insurance plans would also be repealed permanently.

The deficit tab for the package grew as well with the addition of \$428 billion in tax cuts over 10 years to repeal the three so-called "Obamacare" taxes, extending expiring tax breaks, and

Republicans maintained the status quo on several abortion-related battles and on funding for Trump's border wall.

Democrats controlling the House succeeded in winning a 3.1% raise for federal civilian employees and the first installment of funding on gun violence research after more than two decades of gun lobby opposition.

Late Monday, negotiators unveiled a scaled-back \$39 billion package of additional business tax breaks, renewing tax breaks for craft brewers and distillers, among others. The so-called tax extenders are a creature of Washington, a heavily lobbied menu of arcane tax breaks that are typically tailored to narrow, often parochial interests like renewable energy, capital depreciation rules, and race horse ownership.

But a bigger effort to trade refundable tax credits for the working poor for fixes to the 2017 GOP tax bill didn't pan out.

The sweeping legislation, introduced as two packages for political and tactical purposes, is part of a major final burst of legislation that's passing Congress this week despite bitter partisan divisions and Wednesday's likely impeachment of Trump. Thursday promises a vote on a major rewrite of the North American Free Trade Agreement, while the Senate is about to send Trump the annual defense policy bill for the 59th year in a row.

The core of the spending bill is formed by the 12 annual agency appropriations bills passed by Congress each year. It fills in the details of a bipartisan framework from July that delivered about \$100 billion in agency spending increases over the coming two years instead of automatic spending cuts that would have sharply slashed the Pentagon and domestic agencies.

The increase in the tobacco purchasing age to 21 also applies to e-cigarettes and vaping devices and gained momentum after Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell signed on.

Other add-ons include a variety of provisions sought by business and labor interests and their lobbyists in Washington.

Weinstein says he was pioneer in promoting women in film

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Harvey Weinstein defended himself as a pioneer in advancing the careers of women in the film industry in the wake of scores of sexual misconduct allegations that launched the #MeToo movement.

"I feel like the forgotten man," Weinstein said in an interview published Sunday in the New York Post. "I made more movies directed by women and about women than any filmmaker, and I'm talking about 30 years ago.



Weinstein

I'm not talking about now when it's vogue. I did it first! I pioneered it!" "It all got eviscerated because of what happened."

Weinstein said in the interview, "My work has been forgotten."

Weinstein spoke out days after

a tentative \$25 million settlement was reached between him and more than two dozen actresses and former employees who have accused the movie mogul of a range of sexual misconduct, including claims of rape. The deal wouldn't require Weinstein to pay anything out of his own pocket, nor would he have to admit wrongdoing.

He has denied allegations of nonconsensual sex. He faces a Jan. 6 trial on rape and sexual assault charges in state court, where he has pleaded not guilty.

"Harvey Weinstein is trying to

gaslight society again," more than 20 accusers said in a statement issued Sunday. The accusers include Rosanna Arquette, Ashley Judd and Rose McGowan.

The Associated Press does not identify alleged victims of sex crimes unless they give their consent, which those accusers have done.

"He says in a new interview he doesn't want to be forgotten. Well, he won't be. He will be remembered as a sexual predator and an unrepentant abuser who took everything and deserves nothing,"

the statement said.

Lawyer Gloria Allred, who represents a number of accusers, said the ongoing criminal case against Weinstein should be the priority right now.

"Whatever he has done professionally for women may or may not be relevant at the time of sentencing if he is convicted," Allred said. "For now, any attempt by him to recast his tattered reputation or to appear to ask for sympathy will only serve to trigger many of those who allege that they are victims of Mr. Weinstein."

NATION

Powerful storms batter the South

By JAY REEVES
AND JANET MCCONAGHEY
Associated Press

Three people are confirmed dead and a dozen more injured as a powerful storm front packing suspected tornadoes smashed into buildings, downed trees and left a trail of destruction around the Deep South on Monday, authorities said.

One person was reported killed in a suspected tornado strike on a Louisiana home, and two others were reported dead after another storm hit around a community about 55 miles west of the north Alabama city of Huntsville.

Lawrence County Coroner Scott Norwood in Alabama said the two people killed were husband and wife. Authorities said the injured people included a 7-year-old child who was taken to a hospital in Birmingham. Authorities did not release names of the victims.

The area was filled with debris and downed trees when first responders arrived.

"It was total chaos," Norwood told reporters. "We had to make do the best we could."

The storms prompted numer-

ous tornado watches and warnings Monday. Some cities opened shelters as a cold front collided with warmer air over northern Gulf Coast states and temperatures were expected to plunge. The National Weather Service said the severe weather threat could last into Tuesday.

The Louisiana death was attributed to an apparent tornado that struck a residential area in Vernon Parish. Details were not immediately available, said Chief Deputy Calvin Turner. He said authorities feared others could be hurt since crews were still trying to reach hard-hit areas.

In nearby Alexandria, La., about 200 miles northwest of New Orleans, crews cleared roads and restored power late into the night, working in a chilly mist.

Children in a church school were moved to the church before the tornado ripped off the school's roof, said Cpl. Wade Bourgeois, spokesman for the Alexandria Police Department. Among the hardest-hit spots was the Johnny Downs Sports Complex, which he said may have suffered "total damage." The complex includes five full-sized soccer fields, more than 10 smaller ones and eight



PHOTOS BY BARBARA GAUNTT, THE (JACKSON, MISS.) CLARION-LEDGER/AP

Alatala Price walks by what's left of her new mobile home after a tornado ripped through her neighborhood around noon Monday in Edwards, Miss.

baseball diamonds.

"Fortunately, we have no reports of any deaths or serious injuries," he said of the Alexandria area.

Surveying damage with her family, Alexandria resident Sumter Evans said there was a lot of devastation.

"It's bad. There's animals out, houses tore down," she said. "The barns are gone. You can't even find some of the properties. Houses that used to be here, you can't even find them anymore."

Meteorologist Donald Jones of the National Weather Service office in Lake Charles said it appeared the twister that hit part of Alexandria also struck near the town of DeRidder on an "absolutely ridiculous" path estimated at 63 miles long.

"I don't know what our records for the longest total in this area is, but that's got to be pretty damn close to it," he said.

Three people were injured, at least one of them very seriously, by an apparent tornado that hit Amite County, Miss., on Monday afternoon, county emergency director Grant McCurley said.

Some houses were destroyed and others severely damaged, he said. The number wasn't known Monday night because crews

couldn't get to them all — downed trees tangled with power lines blocked county roads and state highways.

McCurley said damage was spread across the county, which adjoins the southeast Louisiana state line.

Four counties eastward, seven women were taken to a hospital from a heavily damaged group home in Sumrall, Miss. Injuries were minor, Sheriff Danny Rigel told WJTV. Damage on the men's side of the Douglas Graham Group Home was less severe than on the women's side, Lamar County emergency management director James Smith told WDAM-TV.

That tornado cell sprang up in Tangipahoa Parish, La., and went through Washington Parish on its way into Mississippi, said meteorologist Phil Grigsby, of the National Weather Service office in Slidell.

The Storm Prediction Center reported two other people suffered minor injuries from flying debris after storms moved into Mississippi, and multiple trees fell atop homes and vehicles in Edwards, east of Vicksburg.

In Guntown, Miss., near Tupelo and about 260 miles north-northeast of Amite County, an apparent tornado destroyed a church and

damaged dozens of homes.

Pastor Carl Estes searched through the debris of Lighthouse Baptist Church for books, photos or any other salvageable items, the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal reported. The storm flattened the building, which Estes said was empty at the time.

Church member Shane Keith told the newspaper he rushed there after the storm and found pews tossed around the hillside.

"I wanted to cry, I really did," Keith said. "I mean, I just got baptized last year and this means a lot to me, this place right here." Mississippi State Sen. Chad McMahn, of Guntown, said he toured a subdivision where an estimated 35 homes had been damaged.

As the storm system pushed into Alabama on Monday evening it toppled trees and power lines and kicked up more suspected tornadoes.

The Colbert County Emergency Management Agency said buildings were damaged in the Colbert Heights area and that multiple roads were blocked.

School systems in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi dismissed students early and canceled afternoon events and activities.



Joseph Lorax covers the roof of his mother's house with tarpaulin after a tornado hit her neighborhood on Monday in Edwards, Miss.

Boeing gets FAA message, will halt Max production in January

By TOM KRISHER
Associated Press

The message to Boeing Co. from the Federal Aviation Administration was clear: The grounded 737 Max won't get approval to fly again anytime soon. So the company had little choice but to idle the giant factory where the plane is made.

Boeing announced Monday that it will suspend production of the Max starting sometime in January, with no specific date for when the Renton, Wash., plant will be restarted.

The company said it won't lay off any of the factory's 12,000 workers "at this time," and many could be diverted to plants elsewhere in the Seattle region. Some could also be assigned to work on the 400 jets that Boeing has built since the Max was grounded in March but couldn't be delivered.

Boeing's decision is a recognition that it

will take longer than the company expected to get the planes back in the air, said Richard Aboulafia, an aircraft industry analyst at the Teal Group.

"If they had gotten some information quietly, behind the scenes, from the FAA that things were looking good for January or February, they wouldn't have done this," he said.

The Max is Boeing's most important jet, but it has been grounded since March after crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia that killed a total of 346 people.

The FAA told the company last week that it had unrealistic expectations for getting the plane back into service. Boeing has missed several estimates for the plane's return date.

The agency has not given a specific date for approving the Max's return, but FAA Administrator Stephen Dickson has said it

will be done on the agency's timetable, not Boeing's.

The FAA said Monday it wouldn't comment on Boeing's business decisions and that it has no set time frame for when work to recertify the Max to fly will be completed.

Even if no employees are laid off, ceasing production will cut into the nation's economic output because of Boeing's huge presence in the U.S. manufacturing sector. Through October of this year, the U.S. aerospace industry's factory output has fallen 17% compared with the same period last year, to \$106.4 billion, in part due to previous 737 Max production cuts.

Aboulafia said the shutdown would probably hinder the economy in the coming months and could worsen the nation's trade balance. "This is the country's biggest single manufactured export product," he said.

In a statement, Boeing said it will deter-

mine later when production can resume, based largely on approval from government regulators.

"We believe this decision is least disruptive to maintaining long-term production system and supply chain health," the company said.

Investigators have found that flight control software designed to stop an aerodynamic stall was a major factor in the crashes, and Boeing is updating the software, making it less aggressive. But regulators have yet to approve the changes.

The long-term grounding has put Boeing in a difficult position, said Joe Schwieterman, a DePaul University professor who is an aviation expert. The plant shutdown will help Boeing conserve cash, but it also will disrupt the network of about 900 companies that supply parts for the Max and other 737 models, Schwieterman said.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Waitress surprised with group's \$1,200 cash tip

NJ PATERSON — Nearly a dozen people surprised a New Jersey waitress with a \$1,200 cash tip as an early holiday gift.

Zellie Thomas told NJ.com that he and a group of his friends left the tip with a waitress at an IHOP restaurant in Paterson on Saturday. Each person brought \$100 to the restaurant.

The waitress was so shocked that she tried to return the money at first, said Thomas.

Thomas, who is an activist and teacher, said he hopes the tip inspires others to do good deeds for strangers.

Video shows responding police pepper-spray cat

GA ALPHARETTA — Body camera video shows police in Georgia joking about shooting a cat that was reportedly acting aggressive and then pepper-spraying the crying creature.

Alpharetta police were called to the scene by a security guard who said the cat was chasing customers and employees in a parking lot, WXIA-TV reported.

Video shows the responding officers approaching the cat and exchanging ideas on how to handle it. The cat is seen running from officers and rubbing itself against the rear of a nearby car before calmly walking toward the officers, who begin to back away.

Officers were attempting to stun the cat while waiting for animal control to respond and remove it, according to a police statement cited by the news station.

Officers said the cat was nowhere to be found when animal control arrived.

Thief goes to extremes to steal a Pepsi

FL MULBERRY — Surveillance video from a convenience store shows just how badly a Florida thief wanted a Pepsi.

The Polk County Sheriff's Office released a video that shows Gabriel Tillman, 49, walk into the store last week, grab a Pepsi and try to leave without paying. The cashier quickly locked the door to prevent Tillman from leaving.

The video shows Tillman hip check and push the door several times. Then he steps back and charges it a few times. When that doesn't work, he grabs a fire extinguisher and slams it against the door several times to no avail.

The glass door didn't break but the fire extinguisher did. The cashier finally opened the door.

A deputy spotted Gabriel two blocks away and arrested him.

150 pounds of meat taken from restaurant

VA NORFOLK — The owner of a Mexican restaurant in Virginia said a pair of thieves broke into the business' cooler and stole 150 pounds of beef and chicken.

Jorge Romero, owner of Jessy's Taco Bistro in Norfolk, found the



ANDREE KEIN, (LEWISTON, MAINE) SUN JOURNAL/AP

Season's greetings

Adrian Tolefree, 1, runs to his mother's arms after meeting with Santa Claus while brothers Avery, 7, and Kieran, 4, detail their Christmas wishes at Trinity Episcopal Church in Lewiston, Maine, on Saturday. Santa handed out candy, gifts and warm knit slippers at the church.

emptied-out meat locker Friday, The Virginian-Pilot reported. Surveillance video shows a man and a woman carrying cases and bags full of meat.

Romero said he alerted police. He said he kept his business open during the meat heist by bringing chicken and beef from one of his family's other restaurants.

Man arrested in theft of fire vehicle after chase

AL BIRMINGHAM — An Alabama man was accused of stealing a fire chief's vehicle and running from police in a high-speed chase.

News media reported that the Etowah County Sheriff's Office arrested Logan Cale Norton on Dec. 11. Glencoe fire chief Richard Johnson said firefighters were answering a call when Norton jumped into Johnson's marked vehicle and took off, with the emergency lights still on.

According to the sheriff's office, Norton was traveling on the wrong side of the road and attempted to hit another patrol vehicle during a chase with police. He eventually surrendered without resistance after stopping at the main fire hall.

Norton can be heard on the dash camera in the stolen vehicle narrating the pursuit as he was running from law enforcement, officials said.

THE CENSUS

\$1K

The amount of money a Miami Beach, Fla., parking enforcement officer is accused of demanding each month from a valet company in exchange for not issuing parking citations. Dante Ziro, 57, was arrested Saturday during a sting operation involving the owner of APS Parking, LLC.

City manager Jimenez gave the officer a \$750 payment during a conversation that was captured on video. Miami Beach City Manager Jimmy Morales told the Miami Herald that investigators believe Ziro acted alone, but he directed police to start an investigation to make sure. Ziro has worked for the city for 20 years.

Lawsuit: Paternity test falsely ID'd man as dad

MD BALTIMORE — A Baltimore man is suing over a take-home paternity test he says incorrectly indicated he was the father of a 1-year-old girl.

Nnanaka Nwofor wants the Ohio company that conducted the DNA test to pay \$75,000 for the cost of supporting the child and her mother and the pain of learning he wasn't the father, The Daily Record reported.

DNA Diagnostics Center Inc. said Nwofor's take-home paternity test indicated he was "99.999999995%" likely to be the girl's biological father.

Months after that May test, Nwofor took another DNA Diagnostics Center test at the prompting of an associate. That test found he was not the biological father, according to the lawsuit.

Pretty penny for Babe's 500th home run bat

CA LAGUNA NIGUEL — The bat used by legendary baseball player Babe Ruth to hit his 500th home run was auctioned Saturday for more than \$1 million.

SCP Auctions didn't identify the buyer. Ruth hit his 500th homer on Aug. 11, 1929, against the Cleveland Indians.

He gave the autographed bat to his friend, former Suffern, N.Y., Mayor Jim Rice, in the 1940s. It's been in the family since then.

Man confesses 3 times in calls to police

GA BOSTON — A man apparently felt so bad about breaking the law that he called police three times to confess, according to police in

Georgia.

Lt. Tim Watkins, of the Thomas County Sheriff's Office, told the Thomasville Times-Enterprise a man called at 5 a.m. Friday to say he had stolen a car in Thomasville and was about 12 miles away in the smaller town of Boston. A Boston police officer went looking for the Chevrolet Impala and Quent Rashed Lankford but could find neither.

Lankford, 29, called back again, and finally called a third time to say he had broken into a convenience store and was drinking beer.

That was enough for Boston police to track down and arrest Lankford.

Police arrest man in Christmas tree thefts

WA FEDERAL WAY — Authorities in Washington state are calling a Christmas tree thief a real-life Grinch after arresting a man they say stole dozens of evergreens from a family-owned farm.

The Seattle Times reported that police in Federal Way made the arrest Friday after getting reports that about 78 trees had vanished from the Snowhove Evergreen Christmas Tree Farm the previous weekend. The trees were valued at more than \$6,000.

The suspect was not identified.

From wire reports

WORLD

Pakistan sentences former ruler to death

By MUNIR AHMED
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — A Pakistani court Tuesday sentenced the country's former military ruler, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, to death in a treason case related to the state of emergency he imposed in 2007 while in power, officials said.

It's the first time in Pakistan's history that a former army chief and ruler of the country has been sentenced to death. Musharraf, who was sentenced in absentia, has been out of the country since 2016, when he was allowed to leave on bail to seek medical treatment abroad.

He has been living in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, and is said to be very ill and unlikely to travel home to face the sentence. Pakistan and the UAE have no extradition treaty and Emirati authorities are unlikely to arrest Musharraf. If he were to return, however, Musharraf would have the right to challenge his conviction and sentence in court.

The ruling Tuesday by a three-judge panel was not unanimous, and one of the judges had opposed the death sentence, according to Akhtar Shah, one of Musharraf's lawyers. Shah said he would appeal the



Musharraf

sentence.

After the sentence was announced, Pakistani Information Minister Firdous Ashiq Awan told reporters that Prime Minister Imran Khan's government would "review in detail" the verdict before commenting on it. Khan, who enjoys good ties with the country's powerful military, is expected to return home from Geneva on Wednesday.

The military did not immediately react to the death sentence for Musharraf, a former army chief. Defense Minister Pervez Khattak said the ailing former dictator still has the right to appeal.

In an infamous purge in 2007, Musharraf imposed a state of emergency and placed several key judges under house arrest in the capital, Islamabad, and elsewhere in Pakistan. He came to power after ousting former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in a 1999 bloodless coup.

Later, when he was back in office, Sharif first accused Musharraf of treason in 2013. The general was formally charged in 2014.

Protests grow over new citizenship law in India

By EMILY SCHMALL
AND SHEIKH SAALIQ
Associated Press

NEW DELHI — Indian student protests that turned into violent clashes with police galvanized nationwide opposition Tuesday to a new law that provides a path to citizenship for non-Muslim migrants who entered the country illegally from several neighboring countries.

Police fired tear gas in the Seelampur area of New Delhi to push back protesters who burned a police booth and two motorbikes after throwing stones and swarming barricades.

Roads leading to the Muslim-majority neighborhood were strewn with stones, tear gas canisters and shards of broken glass.

"We are protesting against the new citizenship law. They are saying if you don't have any proof (of citizenship) ... they will send us out of India," said Muhammad Shehzad, 15.

Protests against the law were also reported in the states of West Bengal, Kerala, Karnataka and elsewhere.

On Sunday, a march by students at New Delhi's Jamia Millia Islamia University descended into chaos when demonstrators set three buses on fire. Police responded with rubber bullets and tear gas. Videos showed officers running after unarmed protesters

and beating them with wooden sticks.

The police response to Sunday's protests has drawn widespread condemnation. It also has sparked a broader movement against the Citizenship Amendment Act, with demonstrations erupting across the country.

The new law applies to Hindus, Christians and other religious minorities who are in India illegally but can demonstrate religious persecution in Muslim-majority Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan. It does not apply to Muslims.

The citizenship law follows a contentious citizenship registry process in northeastern India's Assam state intended to weed out people who immigrated to the country illegally.

Nearly 2 million people in Assam were excluded from the list, about half Hindu and half Muslim, and have been asked to prove their citizenship or else be considered foreign. India is constructing a detention center for some of the tens of thousands of people the courts are expected to ultimately determine came to the country illegally.

The Citizenship Amendment Act could provide protection and a fast track to naturalization for many of the Hindus left off Assam's citizenship list while explicitly leaving out Muslims.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

Dental

902

Transportation

944

AMERICAN DOCTORS & STAFF

SERVICES OFFERED

- family dentistry
- periodontal maintenance
- root canals
- wisdom teeth surgery
- implant surgery
- certified orthodontics
- nitrous oxide

Ramstein Dental Care
06371-406230
Poststrasse 1, 66877 Ramstein
Ramsteindental.com

Wiesbaden Dental Care
06119-887-2050
Bahnstrasse 14, 65205 Wiesbaden
Wiesbadendental.com

Certified American
Dental Hygienists
TRICARE Preferred Provider

VEHICLE SHIPPING SERVICES

- International Shipping
- Import & Export
- Inland trucking (U.S. & Europe)
- Door to door pick-up/delivery service

- Customs clearance
- All Risk Marine Insurance
- Auto Insurance (Germany only)

Phone: +49-(0)6134-2592730
Toll-free: 0800-CARSHIP (Germany only)
E-Mail: info@transglobal-logistics.de
WEB: www.transglobal-logistics.de

UNITED KINGDOM
+44-(0)1638-515714
enquiries@carshipuk.co.uk
www.carshipuk.co.uk

USA
+1-972-662-1670 Ext. 1701
+1-800-264-8167 (US only)
info@tgal.us
www.tgal.us

For Further Information Please Contact

For 2nd POV Shipments - Offices / Agencies near Military Installations

Trans Global

LOGISTICS EUROPE GMBH

Transportation

944

Ship Cars and Containers to and from the USA



OPENING HOURS: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon - Fri
0800-522-6274 or 800-VSA-SHIP (972-7447)
For a free rate request, please email: info@worldwide-shipping.de
Visit our Website: www.worldwide-shipping.de

Transportation

944

Vehicle Transport

We can help



We move your world

Contact: Mr. Iselio Tsuchimochi
ttsuchimochi@fwncorp.de
www.interglobalshipping.de

Off Duty? Amuse Yourself!

Concerts, events, TV,
movies, music, video games,
celebrity antics...

Get entertained with...

STARS AND STRIPES



ChooseVA

ChooseVA AFTER THE MILITARY

>>> You may be eligible for:

- Disability Compensation
- Education and Training
- Employment Services
- Health Care
- Home Loan Guarantees and Housing-related Assistance

- Life Insurance
- Memorial Benefits
- Pension
- Spouses, Dependents and Survivors Benefits



>>> va.gov/stars

Donnell Lee Lewis
U.S. Army Veteran

FACES

Carey's holiday hit finally reaches No. 1

By ELAHE IZADI
The Washington Post

It's annual "All I Want For Christmas Is You" season, also known as "December."

Mariah Carey's ode to love and Christmas has done well every year since its 1994 release, but the infectious carol only now officially reigns from the top of the charts.

Billboard revealed Monday that "All I Want For Christmas Is You" rests comfortably at the top spot on the Hot 100 chart for the week of Dec. 21.

The feat means that Carey's song has now broken multiple records: "All I Want" is the first holiday song to reach No. 1 on the Hot 100 since the Chipmunks' 1958 "The Chipmunk Song"; it's the most-streamed track on Spotify by a female artist in a 24-hour window; and its 20 weeks in the U.K. singles Top 10 chart is the most of any Christmas song.

"All I Want For Christmas Is You" always does well on the holiday-specific charts, but it's been surging on general charts in recent years, with its biggest successes coming in a musical landscape that's dramatically different from the one in which Carey recorded it.

In June 1994, Carey hung up Christmas decorations in the Hamptons rental home where she was staying to create the right mood. Former frequent collaborator Walter Afanasieff, who co-wrote "All I Want," came up with a basic chord structure. Sitting together at the piano, Carey offered vocal melodies that Afanasieff wasn't so sure about, but he soon changed his mind, he told the Seattle Post-Intelligencer in 2013.

"She would sing a melody and I would do a chord change," Afanasieff told the newspaper. "It was almost like a game of ping-pong, back and forth, until we had it."

He never expected the song to be the monster hit it turned into,



RICHARD SHOTWELL, INVISION/AP

Mariah Carey, shown during an NBC press tour in 2016, has much to celebrate this season: Her unstoppable holiday song from 1994, "All I Want For Christmas Is You," has topped the charts at last.

but Afanasieff has some theories as to why it's done so well. Of course there is Carey's vocal prowess and command. But there are also few up-tempo Christmas songs in the American canon, and "All I Want," he told the Seattle paper, is "more adult" and a love song that's less focused on the trappings of the season.

Billboard compiles ratings based on streaming, radio airplay and sales data for its Hot 100 chart, and has changed the eligibility rules over the years. Between 1963 and 1972, and again between 1983 and 1985, holiday songs were mostly confined to the holiday rankings chart. When Carey released her "Merry

Christmas" album, "All I Want" was not available as a single that could be physically purchased, which also prevented it from appearing on the Hot 100. Billboard has since changed that rule, and another barring older songs.

Streaming may be a big reason "All I Want" and other older holiday songs are doing so well on the charts these days. "All I Want's" 25-year journey to No. 1 is the longest of all songs in Billboard history.)

During the 2018-19 season, Christmas songs occupied 23 spots on the Hot 100 list, and "it's pretty much just one word: streaming," Billboard senior director of charts, Gary Trust,

told Genius in 2018. "We've seen streaming gain so much over the last few years. We're really seeing it with holiday songs," adding that smart speakers are helping fuel the trend.

Although "All I Want" becoming a No. 1 hit is quite nice, Carey said she didn't need affirmation.

"It's something my die-hard fans think about, and people that are really close to me are talking to me about it literally all year," she told the New York Times. "But I don't need something else to validate the existence of this song. I used to pick it apart when ever I listened to it, but at this point, I feel like I'm finally able to enjoy it."



NEON/AP

Sun-kyun Lee, left, and Yeo-jeong Jo star in "Parasite."

10 films on Oscars' international shortlist

Ten international films are on the shortlist of movies vying for Academy Award nominations.

The best international feature shortlist announced Monday by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences includes Bong Joon Ho's "Parasite," Pedro Almodovar's semi-autobiographical "Pain and Glory" and "Atlantics," Senegal's entry from history-making director Mati Diop.

The 10 short-listed films are: the Czech Republic's "The Painted Bird"; Estonia's "Truth and Justice"; France's "Les Misérables"; Hungary's "Those Who Remained"; North Macedonia's "Honeyland"; Poland's "Corpus Christi"; Russia's "Beanieboles"; Senegal's "Atlantics"; South Korea's "Parasite"; and Spain's "Pain and Glory."

Post Malone will help ring in the New Year

Rap-pop star Post Malone will perform at "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve with Ryan Seacrest 2020" in New York City on Dec. 31.

Dick Clark Productions announced Tuesday that K-pop group BTS, country singer Sam Hunt and singer-songwriter Alanis Morissette will also perform at the event, which will air live from Times Square.

The annual New Year's Eve affair will include celebrations from multiple cities. Other performers include Dan + Shay, Dua Lipa, Megan Thee Stallion, Salt-N-Pepa, Ciara, Usher, Sheryl Crow and the Jonas Brothers.

From The Associated Press

'Rise of Skywalker' receives enthusiastic reception from fans

JONATHAN LANDRUM JR.
Associated Press

Audiences rose to their feet and gave the latest "Star Wars" film a standing ovation after the credits rolled at the ending of the franchise's third trilogy.

Cheers often erupted with enthusiasm throughout the viewing of "The Rise of Skywalker" on Monday night. After the screening, the film was met with a slew of positive reviews after director J.J. Abrams told the audience before the film played that he was "mostlly terrified" to shoot the movie.

Fans turned the premiere into a living tribute to various eras of the space epic franchise, with some dressing up like Hamill's Luke and Carrie Fisher's Princess Leia from the 1977 original film. Others opted for the look of the characters' mother, Queen Amidala, and many donned the armor of Stormtroopers, bounty hunters and Darth Vader.

"It was everything I'd hope it would be and more," said Dwayne Smith, who went to the premiere with his wife, Shannon, and son Kayden. Both father and son were wearing black First Order costumes.

"The twists, turns and nostalgia. It was emotional,"

Smith said during the premiere's after-party. "It had action. It had everything. If you're on the fence from the last film, you'll be happy that it's back on track."

Attendees were treated to a blue carpet spectacle that included appearances by the droids C-3PO and R2-D2, and Chewbacca stepping out of a black sport utility vehicle and posing for photographers with long arms stretched in the air.

Few films have captured the popular imagination like 1977's "Star Wars: Episode IV — A New Hope," which has sparked three film trilogies, TV shows, toys and more. "The Rise of Skywalker" is one of the year's most-anticipated releases, in part because filmmakers have promised a conclusion to the story of the Skywalker clan that includes Luke, Leia and their father Anakin, who became Darth Vader.

Disney paid more than \$4 billion to acquire the "Star Wars" franchise in 2012 and the recent trilogy started by Abrams in 2015 with "The Force Awakens." While it returned beloved characters from the original trilogy to the big screen for the first time since 1983, the story has focused on a new generation of characters played by Daisy Ridley, Adam Driver, John Boyega and others.



CHRIS PIZZELLO/AP

Mark Hamill was one of many stars at the world premiere of "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker" on Monday in Los Angeles.

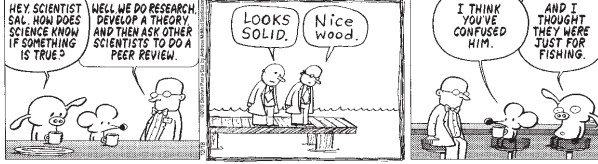
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18								19	20			
		21			22	23		24				
25	26	27			28		29		30	31	32	
33					34				35			
36					37				38			
		39	40			41		42				
43	44				45		46		47	48	49	
50					51	52	53					
54					55				56			
57					58				59			

ACROSS

- Mint product
- Rainbow
- Transaction
- Sicilian spouter
- Actor Gibson
- Roof overhang
- Arm of the Atlantic
- Egyptian deity
- Prepare to drive
- Trattoria offerings
- Answer an invite
- "Incidentally," in a text
- "Minty Jobs" host Mike
- Stow cargo
- Feedbag tidbit
- Pub order
- Appointments
- Poem of praise
- "Certainly!"
- Teen fave
- Japanese noodle
- Three, in Rome
- do-well
- Most recent
- Union foes
- Opposite of "fer"
- Lefty
- Barn roof topper
- Deluge refuge
- Madonna's "La — Bonita"
- Rim
- Shad product
- German refusal

DOWN

- Penny
- Okahoma tribe
- Concerning
- Character
- Early hrs.
- R&B singer
- Des—
- Applaud
- Believer of a sort
- Clint of "Gran Torino"
- Athletic shoe brand
- Minus
- Some printers
- Fortas and Lincoln
- the Impaler
- "Cry, the Beloved Country" author Alan
- Shaft of light
- Flamenco cheer
- White House area
- Takeout order?
- Fuss
- Sawbuck
- Conks out
- Ragamuffin
- Actress Zellweger
- "Guinness Book" suffix
- Cathedral area
- "Zounds!"
- Russian ruler
- Church section
- Island near Java
- Graceful bird
- Acapulco gold
- Guitar's kin

Answer to Previous Puzzle

G	U	R	U	O	F	F	R	A	N	K
A	N	O	N	A	L	A	A	V	O	N
R	O	C	K	S	T	A	R	N	E	R
		N	A	H	M	C	G	R	A	W
S	C	R	O	D	S	L	O	E		
C	O	O	T	S	H	A	M	R	O	C
A	C	T	A	T	O	N	E	R	O	I
R	O	C	K	F	O	R	D	I	S	A
				E	A	R	N	E	C	O
S	Q	U	I	R	M	E	N	A		
H	U	R	T	S	O	F	T	R	O	C
O	I	S	E	I	N	T	U	T	I	L
O	P	A	L	N	O	S	S	C	A	M

12-18

CRYPTOQUIP

LHVJVHHVR LWYZ HVNYKVVH

DHWZR FJ OFNKVQ PMWP JVVN

QFHV WJPVH MFONYZB OWE

PFF QPHFZBNE; DWEVH.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU RETRACT A DECLARATION YOU HAD PREVIOUSLY PUT FORWARD AS FACT, HAVE YOU DE-POSITED IT?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals F

STARS AND STRIPES

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
Lt. Col. Sean Klinek, Europe commander
Lt. Col. Richard McClintic, Pacific commander
Caroline E. Miller, Europe Business Operations

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
leonard.terry@stars.com
Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
reid.robert@stars.com
Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content
croley.tina@stars.com
Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
moores.sean@stars.com
Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital
gromelski.joe@stars.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast
Erik Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief
slavin.erik@stars.com
+49(0)31.3615.9350, DSN (314)583.9350

Pacific
Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief
kidd.aaron@stars.com
+81-42-552.2511 ext. 88380, DSN (315)227.7380

Washington
Joseph Cascholi, Washington Bureau Chief
cascholi.joseph@stars.com
(+1)202/886-0033
Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
bowers.brian@stars.com

CIRCULATION

Mideast
Robert Reisman, Mideast Circulation Manager
robert.reisman.naf@gmail.com
circulation@stars.com
DSN (314)583.9111

Europe
Karen Lewis, Mideast Circulation Manager
lewis.karen@stars.com
memberservices@stars.com
+49(0)31.3615.9090, DSN (314)583.9090

Pacific
Mari Mori, customerhelp@stars.com
+81-3 6585.3171, DSN (315)227.7333

CONTACT US

Washington
DSN (315)227.486-0003
633 3rd St. NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3050

Reader letters
letters@stars.com

Additional contacts
stars@stars.com/contact

OMBUSDMAN

Ernie Gates

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information, reporting any attempts by the military or other authorities to undermine the newspaper's independence. The ombudsman also responds to concerns and questions from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at ombudsman@stars.com, or by phone at 202.886.0003.

Stars and Stripes (USPS 0471900) is published weekly (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and 60 cents on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Inc. 450002, APO AP 96301-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Inc. 450002, APO AP 96301-5002.

This newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. government. The findings, conclusions, and opinions expressed in Stars and Stripes are those of the author and do not represent the official position of the U.S. government.

The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or Stars and Stripes of the products or services advertised. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

© Stars and Stripes 2019

stars.com

OPINION

Congress is Trump's enabler on Saudi vices

By ROB BERSCHINSKI
Special to The Washington Post

The president and his political allies continue to do serious damage to America's global reputation. Now, in a stunning admission, Congress has used the annual National Defense Authorization Act to make clear that it will impose no meaningful penalty on Saudi Arabia or Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for directing the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, or for prosecuting the horrific war in Yemen.

Since a Saudi hit team killed and dismembered Washington Post contributing columnist Khashoggi in October 2018, Republican and Democratic members of Congress have waxed eloquent on the need to hold the crown prince responsible for the murder. They did so in opposition to a president who has sided with the Saudi dictator over his own diplomats, intelligence professionals and Congress at every available opportunity.

Almost one year ago, the Senate unanimously passed a resolution holding the Saudi crown prince responsible for the murder, and Sens. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., Todd Young, R-Ind., and Susan Collins, R-Maine, joined Democrats in introducing tough legislation to punish the Saudi crown prince and others deemed responsible for the killing. In the House, bipartisan legislation introduced by Rep. Tom Malinowski, D-N.J., imposing visa restrictions on the culprits passed by the overwhelming number of 405 to 7. But Senate Republicans refused to put Malinowski's bill up for a vote.

Similarly, bipartisan majorities in both the House and Senate passed resolutions this year that would have blocked U.S. sales of bombs to Saudi Arabia and its partner, the United Arab Emirates. Both countries have used U.S. arms for their war in

Congress has given a heinous gift to human rights violators that will make the world less safe — and the U.S. less respected.

Yemen, which has caused the world's worst humanitarian crisis and pushed millions to the brink of starvation. Congress also passed a resolution that would have ended U.S. military support to the Saudi air war. The president issued four different vetoes to protect Saudi Arabia and block those measures from taking effect.

Given the political reality, House leaders included Malinowski's bill requiring accountability for Khashoggi's murder in the \$738 billion NDAA. They also added measures on U.S. arms sales and other military support to Saudi Arabia and the UAE (as well as addressing many other high-profile issues).

But amid congressional horse-trading on matters as disparate as the Space Force, funding for the border wall and federal paid parental leave, it appears that Republicans, fearful as always of President Donald Trump's wrath, made clear that they would refuse to agree to any meaningful accountability for Saudi Arabia through the defense bill.

This disheartening — if not entirely surprising — news comes less than a week after a Saudi military officer murdered three U.S. Navy sailors at a military facility in Florida. Our president responded by refusing to label the killing as an act of terrorism and by putting as positive a spin on the Saudi government's reaction as possible.

To their credit, House and Senate nego-

tiators left in the final NDAA a requirement for a formal determination by the intelligence community on whether the crown prince and other Saudi leaders directed Khashoggi's killing and covered it up. They also demanded that the Defense Department report on whether the 20,000-plus airstrikes by Saudi Arabia and its partners in Yemen have violated the laws of war. (They have.) If performed credibly, these assessments might open the door for a future administration, one less in the pocket of the House of Saud, to take appropriate action. For now, however, Trump's unyielding loyalty to a Saudi potentate appears to have carried the day over such congressional bulwarks.

It's a bitter coincidence that Congress unveiled the NDAA on Dec. 9, the day of International Human Rights Day, a day invoking the U.S.-led project, in 1948, to adopt a global standard for how governments should treat their citizens. Despite this legacy, it's clear the United States is led in 2019 by a man who admires leaders such as the Saudi crown prince, who rule — and kill the innocent — unchecked by law. For reasons both baffling and well understood, one of America's great political parties remains in thrall to such a man.

By failing to stand up to Trump's authoritarian sympathies by penalizing Saudi leaders, Congress has signaled to dictators that they're free to assassinate journalists and dissidents, and to wantonly kill civilians in war, so long as they have convinced Trump that they are his friends. In so doing, Congress has given a heinous gift to human rights violators that will make the world less safe — and the United States less respected.

Rob Berschinski is the senior vice president for policy at Human Rights First and a former deputy assistant secretary of state for democracy, human rights and labor.

Reform IS' poorly designed secret intel court

By NEEMA SINGH GULIANI
Special to The Washington Post

We just got a better look at the dirty underbelly of the government's secret intelligence court, and it's bad.

Justice Department Inspector General Michael Horowitz released a long-awaited report last week that scrutinizes the FBI's investigation into the Trump campaign's ties with Russia.

Many Democrats quickly seized onto the inspector general's finding that the investigation was properly opened as vindication, proving it was not the partisan "witch hunt" the president claims. The findings, nonetheless, are a scathing indictment of FBI investigative practices. The inspector general found that the FBI committed a litany of errors in efforts to surveil targets. His examination of internal FBI policies confirmed a shocking lack of basic safeguards, raising profound civil liberties concerns.

Under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, the government is required to seek permission from a secret intelligence court — known as the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court — to spy on Americans for foreign intelligence purposes. For more than 40 years, proceedings in this court have been shrouded in secrecy, authorizing some of the most novel and intrusive surveillance techniques imaginable.

In an entirely one-sided process, judges on this court sign off on classified government surveillance requests affecting countless Americans a year who are never suspected of committing a crime.

Typically, no one outside the government — including defense attorneys in cases involving FISA surveillance — sees these requests, let alone has an opportunity to meaningfully challenge them.

Civil liberties groups, including the American Civil Liberties Union, have long warned that the secretive nature of this process breeds abuse. The inspector general's report backs up the criticism.

The report revealed that the FBI's request to spy on Carter Page, a former Trump campaign adviser the government believed was acting as a Russian agent, was riddled with a litany of errors and omissions. It mischaracterized and excluded key facts relevant to the reliability of its sources. It cited interagency Page had with known Russian intelligence officers, yet it failed to disclose that Page was a CIA source during a period that overlapped with some of these interactions.

Despite these and other significant errors — several of which would likely face potential challenges in an adversary proceeding — the intelligence court approved the FBI's request to spy on Page. These and several other errors were repeated in three more requests, all of which were also approved by the court.

That makes this example particularly striking in that the surveillance application was scrutinized by the FBI far more than usual. As the inspector general's report noted, the errors were "made by three separate, hand-picked teams on one of the most sensitive FBI investigations that was briefed to the highest levels within the FBI and which the FBI officials expected would eventually be subjected to close scrutiny."

If this is what close scrutiny looks like, one has to wonder how many errors occur in other, less politically charged cases that never receive the benefit of inspector general review or congressional attention. And if this abuse can happen in the case of an adviser to the Republican nominee for president, one can only imagine the abuses that affect other individuals less connected than Page.

Our intelligence laws are in dire need of reform. And members of Congress — many of whom have been ardent defenders of intrusive spying powers but are now "outraged" and "disgusted" by the Page debacle — must do more than engage in political histrionics. They must reform intelligence rules and practices that for years have been used to wrongly target a broad range of Americans, including Muslims, racial minorities and activists.

As a start, Congress should make the intelligence court more adversarial and transparent, give criminal defendants access to the surveillance applications and orders relied on in their cases and require higher standards before the government can surveil individuals in the first place. And, in a hearing this week, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said, "What happened here is the system failed." Leaving aside any questions about what his political motivations might be, he is absolutely right about the system failing. But, he missed one important point: Members of Congress — Democrats and Republicans — built it to fail. It is now time they fix it.

Neema Singh Guliani is a senior legislative counsel at the American Civil Liberties Union.

SAREBOARD

Sports on AFS

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules.
myafn.net

Deals

Monday's transactions

BASEBALL
ATLANTA BRAVES — Designated 2B Mike Freeman for assignment.

HOUSTON ASTROS — Agreed to terms with RHP Joe Smith on a two-year contract.

TAMPA BAY RAYS — Signed 3B/OF Yoshimoto Tsubugino to a two-year contract.

TEXAS RANGERS — Agreed to terms with LHP Joshy Rodriguez on a two-year contract. Agreed to terms with RHP Matt Bush, RHP Tim Dillard, LHP Brian Flynn, RHP Arturo Reyes, and C/OF Blake Swihart to minor league contracts.

National League
MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Agreed to terms with RHP Josh Lindboom on a three-year contract.

NEW YORK METS — Designated RHP Stephen Nogosek for assignment. Agreed to terms with RHP Rick Porcello on a one-year contract.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Agreed to terms with minor league contracts.

Football

NFL National Football League
NFL — Suspended Seattle WR Houston Gordon indefinitely for violating the league's policies on performance-enhancing substances and substance abuse.

CAROLINA PANTHERS — Placed OT Greg Little on IR. Activated WR Chris Hogan from IR.

CINCINNATI BENGALS — Placed DT Renell Wren on IR. Signed DE Freedom Robinson from the practice squad.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Released OL Caleb Benenoch. Signed LB Chris Covington from the practice squad.

DETROIT LIONS — Placed DT Mike Daniels on IR. Released RB Claiel Brown. G Caleb Benenoch off waivers from Dallas.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANERS — Signed WR Spencer Schnell to its practice squad. Released WR Trevon Thompson from the practice squad.

National Hockey League

ANAHEIM DUCKS — Reassigned D Josh Manson to San Diego (AHL). Recalled C Sam Carrick and D Jacob Larsson from AHL.

ARIZONA COYOTES — Traded FS Nick Merkley and Nate Schnarr. D Kevin Bahlh a conditional 2020 first-round draft pick and a conditional 2021 third-round draft pick to New Jersey for FS Taylor Hall and Blake Speers. Assigned F Brayden Burke to AHL.

CAROLINA HURRICANES — Recalled F Brian Gibbons from Charlotte (AHL). **LOS ANGELES** — Recalled F Ilya Kovalchuk. Recalled D Blake Clague from AHL. Assigned D Paul Laudie to Ontario.

Soccer

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER
CINCINNATI — Signed D Saad Abdul-Salam.

LOS ANGELES FOOTBALL CLUB — Signed MF Francisco Ginella.

MONTREAL IMPACT — Signed D Rod Fanni from the practice squad.

ASHVILLE — Signed D Miguel Angel Nazari Mima.

PORTLAND TIMBERS — Signed MF Diego Valeri to a multi-year contract.

VANCOUVER WHITECAPS — Signed F Lucas Cavallini from Club Puebla (Liga MX-Mexico) and signed him to a three-year contract.

College

MOUNTAIN WEST CONFERENCE — Suspended UNLV TE Giovanni Paolo Sr. two games for a season-long suspension for a second violation of the conference's drug policy.

INDIANA — Announced the retirement of basketball player Ryan Hoover effective at the end of the academic year.

Pro baseball

MLB calendar

Jan. 10 — Salary arbitration figures exchanged.

Jan. 11 — Baseball Writers' Association of America Hall of Fame voting begins.

Feb. 21 — Salary arbitration hearing for Jason Heyward.

Feb. 4-6 — Owners meetings, Orlando, Fla.

Mar. 11 — Voluntary reporting date for pitchers, catchers and injured players.

Mar. 18 — Voluntary reporting date for other players.

Feb. 21 — Mandatory reporting date.

College football

Bowl schedule

Friday, Dec. 20
Bahamas Bowl
Buffalo (7-5) vs. Charlotte (7-5)
Friday, Dec. 21
Florida (Texas) Bowl
Utah State (7-5) vs. Kent State (6-6)
Saturday, Dec. 21
Celebration Bowl
AT Atlanta
New Orleans (9-3)
New Mexico Bowl
Central Michigan (8-5) vs. San Diego State (9-3)

Cure Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
Liberty (7-5) vs. Georgia Southern (7-5)
Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl
SMU (10-0) vs. FAU (10-3)
Camella Bowl
Montgomery, Ala.
Fiu (6-6) vs. Arkansas State (7-5)
Boise State (Id.) vs. Washington (7-5)
New Orleans Bowl
UAB (9-4) vs. Appalachian State (12-1)
Gator Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
Gastonia (10-2) vs. Marshall (4-6)

Tuesday, Dec. 24
Hawaii Bowl
BYU (7-5) vs. Hawaii (1-3)
Thursday, Dec. 26
Shoreline Bowl
Shoreline, Wash.
Miami (6-6) vs. Louisiana Tech (9-3)

Friday, Dec. 27
Military Bowl
Pittsburgh (7-5) vs. Eastern Michigan (6-6)

Friday, Dec. 27
Military Bowl
North Carolina (6-6) vs. Temple (8-4)

Friday, Dec. 27
Military Bowl
Wake Forest (8-4) vs. Michigan State (6-6)

Friday, Dec. 27
Military Bowl
Oklahoma State (8-4) vs. Texas A&M (7-5)

Friday, Dec. 27
Military Bowl
Iowa (9-3) vs. Southern Cal (8-4)

Friday, Dec. 27
Military Bowl
Air Force (10-2) vs. Washington State (6-6)

Saturday, Dec. 28
Camping World Bowl
Notre Dame (10-2) vs. Iowa State (7-5)

Saturday, Dec. 28
Camping World Bowl
Arlington, Texas
Penn State (10-2) vs. Virginia Tech (12-1)

Saturday, Dec. 28
Camping World Bowl
Peach Bowl
CF Semifinal: LSU (13-0) vs. Oklahoma (12-1)

Saturday, Dec. 28
Camping World Bowl
Glendale, Ariz.
CF Semifinal: Ohio State (13-0) vs. Clemson (13-0)

Saturday, Dec. 28
Camping World Bowl
SERVPRO First Responder Bowl
Western Kentucky (8-4) vs. Western Michigan (7-5)

Saturday, Dec. 28
Camping World Bowl
Nashville, Tenn.
Mississippi State (6-6) vs. Louisville (7-5)

Saturday, Dec. 28
Camping World Bowl
Redbox Bowl
Spartanburg, S.C.
Illinois (6-6) vs. California (7-5)

Saturday, Dec. 28
Camping World Bowl
Miami Gardens, Fla.
Florida (11-2) vs. Virginia Tech (12-1)

Saturday, Dec. 28
Camping World Bowl
Tucson, Ariz.
Kentucky (7-5) vs. Virginia Tech (8-4)

Saturday, Dec. 28
Camping World Bowl
El Paso, Texas
Florida State (6-6) vs. Oklahoma State (7-5)

Saturday, Dec. 28
Camping World Bowl
Liberty Bowl
Kansas State (8-4) vs. Navy (9-2)

Saturday, Dec. 28
Camping World Bowl
Tucson, Ariz.
Wyoming (7-5) vs. Georgia Tech (7-5)

Saturday, Dec. 28
Camping World Bowl
Tucson, Ariz.
Texas (7-5) vs. Utah (7-5)

AP spotlight

Dec. 18
1939 — Adolph Rupp coaches his first game at Kentucky, a 67-19 win over Georgetown College in Kentucky. Rupp would lead the Wildcats to 1948, 1949 and four national titles.

The college football playoff game is held, the game scheduled for Wrigley Field is moved indoors to Chicago Stadium because of snow and extreme cold. The Chicago Bears beat the Portland Sea Lions 34-14 at Chicago Stadium, where special ground rules are set up to score 400 yards in the game. The Bears won 30-14 in a 14-minute game. Red Grange catches a 1-yard touchdown pass from Bronko Nagurski for the victory.

1962 — The Philadelphia Eagles win the NFL championship with a 14-0 victory over the Los Angeles Rams.

1964 — Mortimer S. White Richard becomes the first player in NHL history to score 400 goals during the season.

1964 — Second round of the 42nd road victory against the Chicago Bulls.

1962 — Will Chamberlain of the San Francisco Warriors scores 61 points in a 139-110 win over St. Louis Hawks.

1964 — Oscar Robertson of the Cincinnati Royals scores 56 points, including 42 in the final quarter, in a 111-107 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers.

Wednesday, Jan. 1
Citrus Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
Michigan (9-3) vs. Alabama (10-2)

Thursday, Jan. 2
Outback Bowl
Tampa, Fla.
Minnesota (10-2) vs. Auburn (9-3)

Friday, Jan. 3
Rose Bowl
Pasadena, Calif.
Oregon (11-2) vs. Wisconsin (10-3)

Saturday, Jan. 4
Sugar Bowl
New Orleans, La.
Georgia (11-2) vs. Baylor (11-2)

Sunday, Jan. 5
Birmingham (Ala.) Bowl
Birmingham, Ala.
Indiana (8-5) vs. Wake Forest College (6-6)

Gator Bowl
Jacksonville, Fla.
Cincinnati (10-2) vs. Tennessee (7-5)

Friday, Jan. 3
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
Boise
Ohio (6-6) vs. Texas (7-5)

Saturday, Jan. 4
Armed Forces Bowl
Fort Worth, Texas
Southern Miss (7-5) vs. Tulane (6-6)

Sunday, Jan. 5
Lendinger Bowl
Mobile, Ala.
Miami (10-2) vs. Louisiana-Lafayette (10-2)

Monday, Jan. 13
College Football Championship
New Orleans
Peach Bowl winner vs. Fiesta Bowl winner

Saturday, Jan. 18
East-West Shrine Classic
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
Quick Lane Bowl
Detroit

Monday, Jan. 19
NFLPA Collegiate Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
American vs. National

Saturday, Jan. 25
Senior Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
North vs. South

Sunday, Jan. 26
Hula Bowl
At Honolulu
East vs. West

NCAA FCS playoffs
Quarterfinals
Friday, Dec. 17
James Madison 17, Northern Iowa 0

Friday, Dec. 17
Webster State 24, Austin Peay 10
Weber State 17, Montana 10

Semifinals
Saturday, Dec. 14
North Dakota State 33, Illinois State 21

Semifinals
Saturday, Dec. 14
North Dakota State (14-0) vs. Montana State (11-3)

Championship
Saturday, Jan. 11
At Fresno, Texas
Semifinal winners

NCAA Division II playoffs
Semifinals
Saturday, Dec. 14
Minnesota State 58, Slippery Rock 15

Saturday, Dec. 14
West Florida 28, Ferris State 14
Championship
Saturday, Dec. 21

Championship
Saturday, Dec. 21
Minnesota State (14-0) vs. West Florida (12-2)

NCAA Division III playoffs
Semifinals
Saturday, Dec. 14
North Central (Ill.) 45, Muhlenberg 14

Saturday, Dec. 14
Wisconsin-Whitewater 35, Saint John's (Minn.) 32

Championship
Friday, Dec. 20
At Shenandoah, Va.

Championship
Friday, Dec. 20
North Central (Ill.) (13-1) vs. Wisconsin-Whitewater (13-1)

NAIA playoffs
Championship
Saturday, Dec. 14
At Grand Rapids, Mich.

Championship
Saturday, Dec. 14
Morningside (13-0) vs. Marian (Ind.) (12-4)

NCAA Division I poll
MINNEAPOLIS — The top 20 teams in the NCAA Division I men's ice hockey poll, compiled by USA Hockey, were announced online, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Dec. 15 and pre-titles.

Record Pts Pvs
1. North Dakota (33) 15-2-1 948
2. Minnesota State (21) 15-2-1 948
3. Cornell (22) 15-2-1 917
4. Clarkson 12-3-2 813
5. Ohio State 11-4-3 811
6. Michigan 10-4-2 699
7. Denver 10-4-3 699
8. Michigan State 12-4-1 628
9. Minnesota Duluth 12-4-1 628
10. Bowling Green 12-6-1 463
11. Northeastern 12-5-3 407
12. Providence 12-5-3 407
13. UMass Lowell 10-4-4 397
14. Notre Dame 10-4-3 397
15. Alaska 9-5-2 278
16. Michigan State 9-8-1 145
17. Western Michigan 7-7-7 137
18. Sacred Heart 11-4-1 56
19. St. Lawrence 11-4-1 56

Others receiving votes: Northern Michigan 10, Michigan Tech 8, Alaska 7, Bemidji State 5, Boston University 4, Quinnipiac 4, RIT 3, Dartmouth 1.

College basketball

Monday's men's scores

EAST
Delaware 68, Delaware St. 75
Pittsburgh 99, N. Illinois 50

SOUTH
Charlotte 67, Valparaiso 57
Jacksonville St. 85, Evansville 59

MIDWEST
Indiana 89, Morehead St. 62
Mercer 72, North Carolina 63

WEST
Morgan St. 66, Chestnut Hill 67
Murray St. 74, Kentucky St. 38

NEW ENGLAND
Tulane 68, Alcorn St. 57
Dartmouth 77, N. Carolina 67

SEC
E. Illinois 85, W. Illinois 47
N. Dakota St. 79, Montana 65

PAC-12
Texas A&M 66, Brockport 90
SW Baptist 76, Tabor 48

SOUTHWEST
Rogers St. 121, Sacore 64
Texas A&M Commerce 91, Missouri Southern 89

Big Sky
Toledo Tech 71, Southern Miss. 65
UTEP 72, NC A&T 54

Big West
Portland 66, Florida A&M 60
UC Davis 67, Loyola Marymount 68

Big South
UC Irvine 68, Santa Clara 65
UC Santa Barbara 74, Idaho St. 68

Men's schedule
Wednesday's games
EAST
CCSU at Dartmouth, Conn.
St. Peter's at UConn

SEC
Niagara at St. Bonaventure
Waynesburg at La Salle

Big West
New Hampshire at Marist
UC San Diego at Vermont

Big South
Canisius at Buffalo
Oakland at Syracuse

Big Sky
Hula Bowl at St. John's
Stony Brook at Virginia Tech

Big West
Loyola of Chicago vs. Vanderbilt at Phoenix
Bethune-Cookman at UCF

Big South
Ball St. at Georgia Tech
Tennessee at Austin Peay

Big West
Regent University at Howard
Jacksonville at Presbyterian

Big South
Valparaiso at High Point
Richmond at Old Dominion

Big West
VCU at Col. of Charleston
Kennesaw St. at Belmont

Big South
Cabrini at Samford
Abilene Christian at New Orleans

Big West
Ball St. at Jacksonville
Texas A&M-CC at Texas

Big South
Paul Quinn College at McNeese St.
Michigan St. at Jacksonville

Big West
Miami (Ohio) at Louisville
W. Carolina at Xavier

Big South
Tennessee St. at Indiana
Tennessee at Cincinnati

Big West
UC at Illinois St.
Michigan St. at W. Michigan

Big South
DePaul at Cleveland St.
Binghamton at Youngstown

Big West
Georgia Gulf Coast at Dakota St.
Concordia-Chicago at Green Bay

Big South
Illinois St. at Northwestern
Incarnate Word at Cent. Arkansas

Big West
Oregon St. vs. UTSA at Houston, Texas
Houston Baptist vs. Stephen F. Austin

Big South
Northwestern St. at Sam Houston St.
SE Louisiana at Lamar

Big West
Utah Martin vs. Baylor at Houston
Utah Martin vs. Baylor at Houston

Big South
South Florida vs. Utah St. at Houston
South Florida vs. Utah St. at Houston

Big West
Phoenician vs. Marist at Phoenix
Ark-Pine Bluff at New Mexico St.

Big South
North Carolina at Gonzaga
Utah Valley at Wyoming

Big West
Southern U. at California Baptist
San Diego Christian at San Diego St.

Big South
San Jose St. at Santa Clara
San Jose St. at Santa Clara

Big West
Pacific at UNLV
Cal Poly at Sacramento St.

Big South
N. Arizona at UC Riverside
S. Utah at Long Beach St.

Big West
Florida A&M at Washington St.
Jackson St. at Portland

Monday's women's scores
EAST
Albright 69, Moravian 54
E. Connecticut 82, Washington (Md.) 31

SOUTH
Charlotte 68, Columbia (SC) 59
Howard 67, East Carolina 51

MIDWEST
Louisville 70, Tech 70
Mississippi 66, Louisiana Southern 66

WEST
Mississippi 64, Louisiana-Lafayette 48
UC Riverside 69, Coll. of Charles 56

SEC
Wake Forest 84, Campbell 46
Akron 64, NC A&T 52

PAC-12
Hillsdale 69, Mercerhurst 63
Illinois St. 74, SIU-Edwardsville 53

Big West
Loyola of Chicago 84, Bowling Green 76
N. Kentucky 70, Indiana 68

Big South
Newman 75, Southwestern (Kan.) 43
Northwestern 74, Texas-Arlington 47

Big West
Acora 64, DePaul 74
Walsh 88, Ohio Dominican 72

Big South
Wichita 104, Ark-Pine Bluff 50
FAU 89, S. Utah 52

Big West
Cal Baptist 74, Idaho St. 68
Grand Canyon 53, UNLV 51

Big South
New Mexico 107, New Mexico St. 53
New Mexico 107, New Mexico St. 53

Big West
Providence 67, Utah 60
Utah 64, North Texas 52

Women's schedule
Wednesday's games
EAST
New Hampshire at Dartmouth

SEC
Liberty at St. Francis (Pa.)
Robert Morris at North St.

Big West
Maryland at Georgia St.
California at Morgan St.

Big South
Sam Houston St. at Northwestern St.
LSU-Shreveport at McNeese St.

Big West
VCU at St. Louis
Lamar at Middle Tennessee

Big South
Midwest
W. Kentucky at Purdue

Big West
Lake Erie at Youngstown
Chicago St. at Evansville

Big South
Cent. Michigan at Middle Tennessee
Princeton at Missouri

</

SPORTS BRIEFS

NFL suspends Seahawks' Gordon

His suspension is second in two seasons for violating league's drug policy

Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — The troubles that have followed Josh Gordon throughout his career continued as the Seahawks wide receiver was suspended indefinitely by the NFL for violating the league's drug policy again.

Gordon tested positive for performance-enhancing drugs and "substances of abuse," the league said in a statement.

Gordon was reinstated by the NFL in August after having been suspended indefinitely in December 2018, missing the final three games of last season for violations of the league's substance abuse policy.

Gordon signed with New England and was among the leading receivers for the Patriots with 20 catches for 287 yards and a touchdown through six games. But he was placed on injured reserve with knee and ankle injuries and was released in late October.

Seattle had stepped in and claimed the oft-troubled receiver off waivers.

Officials: Fire won't slow Rangers' new park

ARLINGTON, Texas — The opening of the new ballpark for the Texas Rangers isn't expected to be delayed after a fire that damaged about 2,000 square feet near the roof, construction officials said.

The fire Saturday started when sparks from welding work ignited combustible materials being stored in a sub-roof area on one of the upper floors at Globe Life Field, fire officials said.

The first game at the new stadium is set for March 23, an exhibition against St. Louis. The first regular-season game is March 31 against the Los Angeles Angels.

Shiffrin falls to 17th in giant slalom

COURCHEVEL, France — Federica Brignone won her first women's World Cup giant slalom in more than a year on Tuesday, while Olympic champion Mikaela Shiffrin of the United States struggled to find pace and finished 17th.

Brignone trailed leader Mina Fjellheim of Norway by 0.13 seconds in third place after the opening run, but the Italian posted the fifth-fastest time in the second to win by four-hundredths.

Simpson, motorsports safety pioneer, dies

Bill Simpson, a pioneer in motorsports safety credited with creating equipment that saved too many drivers to count from death or serious injury, died Monday from complications of a stroke suffered three days earlier. He was 79. The Motorsports Hall of Fame, which inducted Simpson in 2003, announced his death.

Simpson suffered the stroke Friday; he also had a stroke earlier this year from which he recovered and returned to many IndyCar events, where he routinely socialized and shared stories with some of the greatest racers of all time.

"Bill Simpson was a racer and innovator who made drivers and crew members safer," three-time NASCAR champion Tony Stewart said. "The safety equipment that bears his name saved me plenty of times."

UNLV football players suspended for fighting

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — The Mountain West Conference has suspended four UNLV football players and reprimanded another for their involvement in an altercation following a game against rival Nevada on Nov. 30.

The conference announced Monday that Evan Austrie, Noah Bean, Giovanni Faurolo Sr. and Justin Polu were issued suspensions and Steve Jenkins a reprimand for the postgame fight.

Faurolo will be suspended for the first two games of the 2020 season, Bean will miss the season opener and Polu will be suspended for half a game. Four Nevada players were suspended last week for their involvement in the fight.

Accused Pryor attacker released to home

PITTSBURGH — A judge has decided that a woman charged with attempted homicide and aggravated assault in a Pittsburgh stabbing that critically injured former Ohio State quarterback Terrelle Pryor can be released on electronic home monitoring.

Allegheny County Common Pleas Judge Jeffrey Manning ruled Tuesday that 24-year-old Shalva Briston will only be permitted to leave the home for court proceedings. Defense attorney Lee Rothman cited his client's employment and lack of a criminal record. A preliminary hearing in her case is scheduled Thursday.

Pryor, 30, was taken to a hospital early Nov. 30 following what police called a dispute with "mutual combatants" in an apartment on the city's North Side. He faces a charge of simple assault.

Blackhawks: Crawford to return in January

Chicago Blackhawks assistant Marc Crawford will remain suspended until Jan. 2 and then resume his coaching duties after an investigation into his behavior in previous jobs.

Several former players accused Crawford of physical and verbal abuse in recent weeks. Crawford on Monday apologized to Sean Avery, Harold Bruken, Patrick O'Sullivan and Brent Sopel, who spoke about the coach's actions.

Charlotte lands MSL expansion team

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — David Pepper's vision of bringing a Major League Soccer team to Charlotte has been realized.

Charlotte was awarded an MLS expansion team on Tuesday by MLS commissioner Don Garber at a news conference in downtown Charlotte. The team will begin play in 2021 and can begin signing players immediately.

Tepper owns the NFL's Carolina Panthers, and the team will play its games at Bank of America Stadium, where the Panthers play. The city also has the NBA's Charlotte Hornets.



BRIAN BLANCO/AP

The NFL has suspended indefinitely Josh Gordon, above, for violating league policies on performance enhancers. Gordon was reinstated by the NFL in August after having been suspended indefinitely in December 2018, missing the final three games of last season for violations of the league's substance abuse policy.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
GLOBAL CAMPUS | EUROPE

UMGC IS NOW UMGC.
NEW NAME. SAME MISSION.

EDUCATION GOALS FOR 2020? WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED.

HUNDREDS OF CLASSES START ON BASE & ONLINE 13 JANUARY.

- Registration is open for mid-January class starts. Visit our website and select "Current Schedule" at the top of the page to see your options.
- UMGC Europe offers rolling admissions, frequent start dates, and tailored unit classes for our students, perfect for those participating in Defender 2020. This spring, 1000+ classes are available with start dates every 3 weeks.
- Our special overseas tuition rate applies to all U.S. DoD ID card holders, including family members and contractors.



50 locations throughout
Europe and the Middle East
with on base services for students



UMGC was named the top public university in the Military Times Best for Vets: Colleges 2020 ranking of online and nontraditional schools.

ENROLL NOW

Contact the UMGCEurope team on base
at your local education center or visit
europe.umgc.edu

COLLEGE BASKETBALL



BRAD TOLLEFSON, LUBBOCK AVANTAGE-JOURNAL/AP

Texas Tech's Terrence Shannon Jr., left, dunks over Southern Mississippi's Hunter Dean during the second half of Monday's game in Lubbock, Texas.

Southern Miss throws scare into Texas Tech

24th-ranked Red Raiders rally in second half

Associated Press

LUBBOCK, Texas — Texas Tech is back in the AP Top 25 after the school's first win over a No. 1 team.

The 24th-ranked Red Raiders did just enough to stay there against a team that had already been blown out twice by ranked opponents this season.

Terrence Shannon Jr. scored 18 points and Texas Tech rallied in the second half for a 71-65 victory over Southern Miss on Monday night.

Davide Moretti scored 17 points and hit a punctuating three-pointer on an otherwise rough shooting night as the Red Raiders (7-3) extended the nation's second-longest active home nonconference winning streak to 52 games.

"I think a lot of times when we sit around and feel sorry for ourselves, we're disrespecting the opponent," coach Chris Beard said. "They played harder than us in a lot of stretches of the game and we don't really say that about our team as much but that's exactly what happened."

Texas Tech, which lost to Virginia in overtime in the national championship game last season, had dropped from 12th

all the way out of the Top 25 with two straight losses, then lost again at DePaul.

The Red Raiders returned to the poll following a two-week absence with a 70-57 victory over then-No. 1 Louisville at Madison Square Garden in New York last Tuesday.

But the Golden Eagles (3-9) led well into the second half and were within two points in the final three minutes despite playing without leading scorer Boban Jandrić and two other players who have started this season.

"We're a team in transition," coach Jay Lader said. "I thought it was good for our young players. I am in no way happy that we lost and not taking any type of solace, any type of moral victory and our players aren't either."

Texas Tech was also short-handed in its fourth straight game without freshman Jahmi'us Ramsey. The team's leading scorer has been sidelined by a hamstring injury.

LaDarius Draine scored 21 points and Gabe Watson added 20 in Southern Miss' eighth consecutive loss to a ranked team going back to January 2011. Three of the defeats have come this season.

Top Scores for Week 15

108 JFKF4853	Middle East
108 Action Jackson	Europe
106 arnoldck	Europe
103 USAFR1PILOT	Middle East
103 scober75	United States
102 armydude1212	Pacific
100 Park Avenue	Europe
98 KINGKAPP	Pacific
98 Money Main	Middle East
98 rasselse	Middle East

STARS AND STRIPES

NFL CHALLENGE

HALL OF FAME



Top 10 Overall Scores

1267 PurplePeopleEaters	Pacific
1259 gbpack	Europe
1252 Review16	United States
1250 armydude1212	Pacific
1242 820th Horseman	Middle East
1239 jeanfontenot	United States
1233 KILRDIVR	United States
1228 gobrownies43	Europe
1227 Park Avenue	Europe
1226 cowboy48	United States

Week 16 DEADLINE

12 Noon US Central Time, Every Thursday

Log in every week during the 2019 NFL Season and make your picks for the winners of the upcoming NFL games. Earn points for every winning team you pick and at the end of the season, you may find yourself the winner.*

There is no cost to participate, but you must register to play. Rules and restrictions apply. See official rules of play on nfl.strikes.com.

NBA

Roundup

Rockets roar back to overcome Spurs

Associated Press

HOUSTON — After Houston completed the biggest comeback in franchise history, Russell Westbrook was asked about the key to the win.

The star guard didn't speak for several seconds. He simply patted his chest several times, crediting the Rockets' heart for the victory.

Westbrook scored 31 points, James Harden had 28 and Houston set a franchise record by overcoming a 25-point deficit to beat the San Antonio Spurs 109-107 on Monday night.

"Sometimes you've got to want it more than the other team," Westbrook said. "It's that simple. No plays or no possessions or no shots can change that."

The comeback eclipses the 23-point deficit the Rockets faced in a 110-107 victory against Portland on Jan. 22, 1977.

The game was tied with 2½ minutes remaining when Houston's P.J. Tucker hit a three-pointer from the corner. A layup by Rudy Gay got the Spurs within one with just under a minute left before Harden missed a three on the other end.

A three-pointer by Bryn Forbes forced on the rim before bouncing out, and Harden made two free throws to extend the lead to 109-106 with 16.2 seconds left.

Forbes missed another three with 10 seconds left, but San Antonio got the ball back when Clint Capela knocked the ball out of bounds while fighting for a rebound. The Rockets then intentionally fouled two times, and Derrick White made a free throw before purposely missing the second one with 2.7 seconds left. But Westbrook grabbed the rebound to secure the win.

Houston fell behind early in a game where Harden had just nine points on 4-for-17 shooting in the first half. He warmed up after the break and finished 10-for-29.

"My confidence is never gone, no matter if I go 4-for-20 or whatever," he said. "I'm always going to shoot the ball and be aggressive. Early my shot wasn't falling ... and then other guys stepped up."

The Spurs managed just 35 points after setting a season high for second-half scoring. LaMarcus Aldridge led San Antonio with 19 points and 13 rebounds, and Forbes had 10 points.

Thunder 109, Bulls 106: — Chris Paul hit five three-pointers in the fourth quarter and host Oklahoma City erased a 26-point second-quarter deficit to rally past Chicago.

Paul took over in the fourth, going 5-for-5 from deep and scoring 19 of his 30 points. His fourth three of the period put the Thunder up 101-100, their first lead since the opening seconds. Paul also had nine rebounds and 10 assists.

The Bulls tied it at 106 before

Steven Adams put Oklahoma City ahead with a free throw and Paul added two more in the final five seconds.

Zach LaVine finished with 39 points for Chicago.

Grizzlies 118, Heat 111: Rookie guard Ja Morant had 20 points and 10 assists to lead host Memphis over Miami.

Jones Valanciunas finished with 21 points and 10 rebounds as the Grizzlies won for the fourth time in five games.

The Heat had won four of five, including three overtime victories. Jimmy Butler had 25 points and eight assists, and Tyler Herro scored 22.

Memphis scored 11 straight points to take a 115-107 lead with 2:31 left.

Raptors 133, Cavaliers 113: Pascal Siakam scored 33 points, Kyle Lowry had 20 points and 11 assists, and host Toronto topped struggling Cleveland.

Norman Powell scored 26 points, Serge Ibaka had 14 and OG Amunoby added 12 as the Raptors won for the 11th time in 14 home games. The defending NBA champions have won back-to-back at home after losing three straight on their own court.

Collin Sexton scored 25 points, Darius Garland had 20 and Tristan Thompson 18 as the Cavaliers lost for the 16th time in 18 games.

Wizards 133, Pistons 119: Bradley Beal scored 15 of his 35 points in the first quarter, and Washington took control with some torrid shooting before winning at Detroit.

The Pistons played without injured stars Blake Griffin and Andre Drummond, and the Wizards shot 81% (17-for-21) from the field in the first quarter. They also made all three of their three-point attempts and all six of their free throws in the opening period, but lost a 43-31 lead.

Isiah Thomas returned from a calf injury and scored 23 points for Washington. Davis Bertans added 17 as the team snapped a four-game losing streak.

Derrick Rose and Markieff Morris each had 22 for Detroit.

Tail Blazers 111, Suns 110: Damian Lillard scored 27 points, including a crucial three-point play with 26 seconds left, and Portland bounced back from a 16-point deficit in the first half to win in Phoenix.

With the Blazers trailing 110-108, Lillard drove straight through the lane and made a large while crashing into Aaron Baynes, who was called for a blocking foul. Lillard hit the free throw to make it 111-110, and the Suns couldn't score on their final possession as Ricky Rubio's three-point attempt bounced off the rim with two seconds left.

CJ McCollum led Portland with 30 points. The Blazers have won 11 straight against Phoenix.



MORRY GASK/AP

The Dallas Mavericks' Kristaps Porzingis tries to drive past the Milwaukee Bucks' Khris Middleton during the Mavs' 120-116 win Monday in Milwaukee. Porzingis had 26 points for Dallas.

Mavs halt Bucks' win streak at 18

Dallas, minus Doncic, led by Curry, Porzingis

By JIM HOEHN
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — The Bucks have little time to reflect on the end of their 18-game winning streak.

Milwaukee's impressive run was halted Monday night when Seth Curry and Kristaps Porzingis each scored 26 points to help the Dallas Mavericks hang on for a 120-116 victory even without star guard Luka Doncic.

The Bucks, who dropped to 24-4 with their first loss since a 103-100 setback Nov. 8 at Utah, next host LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers (24-3) on Thursday in a matchup of conference leaders.

"It's going to be a test for us," said Giannis Antetokounmpo, who led Milwaukee with 48 points and 14 rebounds. "The Lakers are one of the best teams in the league. We've got to play good basketball. We've got to move the ball. Obviously as a team, we don't want to lose two in a row."

The winning streak was the Bucks' longest since a franchise-record 20 consecutive victories by the 1970-71 championship team that featured Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, then known as Lew Alcindor, and Oscar Robertson.

Dallas led comfortably for most of the fourth quarter until the final half-minute. Tim Hardaway Jr. hit the second of two free

throws to make it 119-114 with 7.6 seconds left. Antetokounmpo scored on a layup and was fouled, but missed the free throw. Sterling Brown grabbed the offensive rebound, but his putback was blocked by Porzingis.

"I'm proud of the way the guys fought to the very last second tonight," Milwaukee coach Mike Budenholzer said. "To find a way to be close in the fourth quarter and have an offensive rebound and give ourselves a chance, I think it's just a sign of the competitive nature of this group."

Doncic sat out with a sprained right ankle, while the Bucks were missing injured point guard Eric Bledsoe.

Milwaukee trailed 86-76 entering the fourth quarter and pulled to 99-92 before Porzingis hit back-to-back three-pointers.

The Mavs were 16-for-41 from three-point range, including four threes each by Curry and Porzingis. Milwaukee went 11-for-41 from beyond the arc.

"I hit these two deep threes but even then, Giannis was right there in front of me," Porzingis said. "They know we are a pretty good shooting team. But we have so many weapons and anybody on any given night can score 20-plus points. That's the dangerous thing about us. Tonight, Seth played great. It's kind of hard to play against a team that has so many options."

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	20	8	.714	—
Boston	17	7	.708	1
Toronto	18	8	.692	1
Detroit	14	12	.538	5
New York	6	21	.222	13½

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	19	8	.704	—
Orlando	12	17	.462	½
Charlotte	12	17	.414	8
Washington	8	17	.320	10
New Orleans	11	21	.222	13

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	24	4	.857	—
Indiana	18	9	.667	5½
Portland	11	16	.407	12½
Chicago	10	19	.345	14½
Cleveland	6	21	.222	17½

Western Conference

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	18	8	.692	—
L.A. Lakers	18	9	.667	½
Houston	16	16	.500	8
Memphis	10	17	.370	8½
New Orleans	6	21	.222	12½

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	17	8	.680	—
Utah	15	11	.577	2½
Oklahoma City	12	14	.462	5½
San Antonio	11	16	.407	7
Minnesota	5	21	.192	14

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	24	3	.889	—
Sacramento	20	8	.714	4½
Dallas	12	14	.462	11½
Phoenix	11	15	.423	12½
Golden State	5	23	.179	19½

Sunday's games

Orlando 130, New Orleans 119
Indiana 107, Charlotte 85
Brooklyn 109, Philadelphia 89
L.A. Lakers 101, Atlanta 96
Denver 111, New York 105
Sacramento 120, Golden State 79

Monday's games

Washington 133, Detroit 119
Toronto 133, Cleveland 113
Dallas 120, Milwaukee 116
Houston 109, San Antonio 107
Memphis 118, Miami 111
Oklahoma City 109, Chicago 106
Portland 111, Phoenix 110

Tuesday's games

L.A. Lakers at Indiana
Sacramento at Charlotte
Atlanta at New York
Brooklyn at New Orleans
Orlando at Utah
Phoenix at L.A. Clippers

Wednesday's games

Charlotte at Cleveland
Miami at Washington
Atlanta at Philadelphia
Toronto at Detroit
Memphis at Cleveland
New Orleans at Minnesota
Dallas at Denver
Boston at Dallas

Golden State at Portland

Utah at Atlanta
L.A. Lakers at Milwaukee
Brooklyn at San Antonio
Houston at L.A. Clippers

NHL

Western expansion: Coyotes obtain Hall

Deal for 2018 MVP shifts conference's balance of power

By STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

John Chayka looked at the Arizona Coyotes roster and their spot atop the Pacific Division and wondered.

The Coyotes haven't made the playoffs since 2012, and 2018 NHL MVP Taylor Hall was available. The cost was two draft picks and three prospects but no players from the current roster, so he went for it.

Arizona, after acquiring Hall, is a legitimate contender in the Western Conference.

"We want to take a run at things here," Chayka said. "We ask our questions here internally like, 'Why not us?' We've got a

good group. We've got a chance to contend. You can always look to future years and say, 'What if?' But when we've got a chance right now, we wanted to take our shot."

The Coyotes haven't had this good a shot at contending, not just for a playoff spot, but the Stanley Cup, in almost a decade. They prevented Western rivals such as the Colorado Avalanche and defending champion St. Louis Blues from getting Hall and bolstered a blue-collar roster by adding a 28-year-old wing in his prime.

Hall is a free agent after this season. He could sign long term with the Coyotes.

The closest the Coyotes have

come to the Cup is a five-game Western Conference finals loss to Los Angeles in 2012. Adding Hall to a core including young leading scorers Clayton Keller and Nick Schmaltz, wing Phil Kessel, defenseman Oliver Ekman-Larsson and goalenders Darcy Kuemper and Antti Ranta should ratchet up the expectations in the desert.

"I'm joining a team with some young studs, a lot of really good defensesmen and obviously two goalies that have played amazing this year. You mention those things and that's really what you need in a contender and that's what it looks like the Coyotes are," Hall said after the trade from New Jersey.


JEFFREY T. BARNER/AP

Taylor Hall was traded Monday by the New Jersey Devils to the Arizona Coyotes for three prospects and two draft picks.

Roundup

Jackets' Korpisalo stops Caps

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Fresh off sweeping a four-game road trip, the NHL-leading Washington Capitals fell flat in a 5-2 loss to the Columbus Blue Jackets on Monday night that snapped their winning streak at six.

Washington hadn't lost in regulation since Nov. 20. The Capitals had their seven-game point streak end two days before facing the Boston Bruins in a showdown of the league's top two teams.

Goaltender Braden Holtby made 19 first-period saves but allowed four goals on 37 shots. Alex Ovechkin scored his 21st of the season early in the third period, and Tom Wilson added a 6-on-5 goal in the waning minutes.

Cam Atkinson scored twice, including an empty-netter, and looks to be heating up after a rough first quarter of the season. Atkinson has three goals in three games after just four in his first 27.

Scoring struggles by Atkinson and other top Blue Jackets players are a large reason for the team's struggles this season after the departures of Artemi Panarin, Sergei Bobrovsky and Matt Duchene. Coach John Tortorella lamented taking ice time away from Atkinson and said the six-time 20-goal scorer needs to make some adjustments to get out of his funk.

"I think Cam's got to realize he's got to help himself a little," Tortorella said. "This team is looking for some scoring desperately and the guys that we've been counting on just have not been there. It's really put us into a jam here the first 30 games, and


PAUL VERNON/AP

Columbus Blue Jackets forward Oliver Bjorkstrand, center, controls the puck between Washington Capitals defenseman Radko Gudas, left, and goalie Braden Holtby. Bjorkstrand scored two goals in a 5-2 win Monday in Columbus that ended the Capitals' winning streak at six games.

(Atkinson) is one of them."

Ryan Murray, Riley Nash and Oliver Bjorkstrand also scored for Columbus, which snapped its four-game skid. The Blue Jackets won for the third time in nine games.

Goaltender Joonas Korpisalo, who faced only six shots in the first period, came alive when he saw more action and finished with 37 saves.

Blues 5, Avalanche 2: David Perron scored three times for his fifth career hat trick, powering host St. Louis to the victory.

Vince Dunn and Jordan Kyrou also scored for the Blues, who remained atop the Central Division with 48 points. Colorado stayed in second with 45.

Jordan Binningman made 26 saves in his third consecutive victory and he improved to 16-6-4 in the season.

Avalanche goalie Philipp Grubauer made his first appearance since he suffered a lower-

body injury Dec. 7 in Boston. He stopped 31 shots.

Nazem Kadri and Mikko Rantanen scored in the second period for Colorado.

Predators 5, Rangers 2: Roman Josi had two goals and an assist, leading Nashville to a win in New York.

Rocco Grimaldi, Mattias Ekholm and Ryan Ellis also scored to help the Predators win for the third time in five games. Jussi Saros stopped 39 shots.

Chris Kreider and Artemi Panarin scored for the Rangers, losers of three of their last five (2-1). Alexandr Georgiev made 19 saves.

New York went 0-for-4 on the power play, with Saros stopping all 11 shots during the man advantages.

Oilers 2, Stars 1: Leon Draisaitl scored another power-play goal for Edmonton, and Mikko Koskinen made 34 saves in a win at Dallas.


PAUL VERNON/AP

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division					Metropolitan Division				
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GP	W	L	OT	Pts
Boston	34	21	7	6	48	115	86		
Buffalo	34	16	17	7	39	107	103		
Florida	33	16	12	5	37	115	109		
Montreal	33	15	12	6	36	105	107		
Toronto	34	16	14	4	36	110	109		
Tampa Bay	31	16	12	3	35	110	100		
Ottawa	34	18	7	30	91	109			
Detroit	35	9	23	3	21	76	136		
Washington	35	24	5	53	125	100			
N.Y. Islanders	31	22	7	2	46	92	72		
Carolina	33	20	11	7	42	107	86		
Pittsburgh	33	19	10	4	42	110	89		
Philadelphia	33	15	12	5	39	101	99		
N.Y. Rangers	36	16	13	4	36	105	106		
Columbus	33	13	14	6	32	82	96		
New Jersey	32	10	17	5	25	77	115		

Western Conference

Central Division					Pacific Division				
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GP	W	L	OT	Pts
St. Louis	35	21	8	6	48	107	95		
Colorado	33	20	11	2	42	101	91		
Winnipeg	33	20	11	2	42	101	91		
Dallas	35	15	12	2	42	91	82		
Minnesota	34	16	13	5	37	105	112		
Nashville	32	15	12	5	35	107	103		
Chicago	34	13	15	6	32	84	110		
Arizona	35	19	12	4	42	97	84		
Edmonton	36	19	13	4	42	108	110		
Vegas	36	19	13	4	40	95	104		
Calgary	36	19	13	4	40	95	104		
Vancouver	34	16	14	4	36	110	105		
San Jose	35	16	17	2	34	96	122		
Anaheim	33	14	15	4	32	87	97		
Los Angeles	35	14	16	3	31	90	111		

Notes: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Sunday's games
 Winnipeg 7, Philadelphia 3
 Chicago 5, Minnesota 3
 Edmonton 2, Dallas 1
 Vegas 6, Vancouver 3

Monday's games
 Florida 6, Ottawa 1
 Nashville 5, N.Y. Rangers 2
 Columbus 3, Washington 0
 St. Louis 5, Colorado 2

Tuesday's games
 Buffalo at Toronto
 Los Angeles at Boston
 Montreal at Vancouver
 Anaheim at Philadelphia
 Columbus at Detroit
 Carolina at Winnipeg
 Pittsburgh at Calgary
 Nashville at New Jersey
 Minnesota at Vegas

Wednesday's games
 Anaheim at New Jersey
 Colorado at Chicago
 Edmonton at St. Louis

Scoring leaders

Through Monday					G A Pts				
Player	GP	G	A	Pts	Player	GP	G	A	Pts
Connor McDavid, EDM	36	20	39	59	Leon Draisaitl, EDM	36	21	36	57
Nathan MacKinnon, COL	33	20	31	51	Artem Anisimov, COL	33	20	31	51
Brad Marchand, BOS	34	18	32	50	Jack Eichel, BUF	34	23	25	48
John Carlson, WAS	33	20	23	43	Artemi Panarin, NYR	33	20	23	43
Jonathan Huberdeau, FLA	33	11	30	41	Patrick Kane, CHI	34	18	22	40

MLB/COLLEGE FOOTBALL

MLB briefs

Mets sign Porcello to 1-year, \$10M deal

Former Cy Young winner stays close to home

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Rick Porcello's \$10 million deal with the New York Mets shows the fruits of free agency as much as Gerrit Cole's \$324 million contract across town with the Yankees.

While Cole set a record, location was among Porcello's primary concerns.

"I live about an hour away from Citi Field," he said Monday after the Mets announced his contract. "That opportunity of having the hometown comfort, the ability for my father and family and friends to be able to come and see to experience in person and get to experience a little bit more live, were pretty deciding factors for me."

Porcello lives in Morristown, N.J., and was at Seton Hall Prep in West Orange when Detroit selected him with the 27th overall pick of the 2007 amateur draft. He was traded to Boston after the 2014 season and was guaranteed \$95 million by the Red Sox over the next five seasons. He won the AL Cy Young Award with a 22-4 record in 2016 and was 17-7 in 2018, when he earned a World Series ring.

"This is a big deal for me," he said. "I grew up a lifelong Mets fan as a kid, and now to get the opportunity to play for the organization that I cheered on for so many years is a huge honor."

New York was the first team to contact Porcello during free agency and former Mets pitcher Al Leiter, now a New York City baseball operations adviser, helped recruit him. Porcello remembered going to a game when Mike Piazza went deep.

"Watching him in person be able to hit a home run at Shea Stadium was a huge thrill for me," Porcello recalled, adding the 2000 NL pennant and Subway Series against the Yankees was another thrill.

"Just kind of being a fan along for that ride was absolutely incredible experience," he said.

A right-hander who turns 31 on Dec. 27, Porcello joins a rotation that includes Jacob deGrom and Noah Syndergaard plus fellow New York-area natives Marcus Stroman and Steven Matz, who grew up on Long Island.

Porcello was 14-12 with a 5.52 ERA in 32 starts last season. He has started throwing earlier this offseason and instituted new drills.

"There's kind of a long list of things, honestly, from the offseason leading into spring training, and then certain things that kind of happened throughout the course this season that I think contributed to some of the struggles that I had," he said.

Source: Reds, Miley agree to 2-year deal

All-Star pitcher Wade Miley and the Cincinnati Reds have agreed to a \$15 million, two-year contract, a person familiar with deal told The Associated Press.

Miley, a 33-year-old left-hander, was 14-6 with a 3.98 ERA in 33 starts for the AL champion Houston Astros.

He had a \$4.5 million base salary and earned \$500,000 in performance bonuses. He made just one postseason appearance, allowing three runs and four hits over 2½ innings in the Game 3 Division Series loss to Tampa Bay.

Miley is 85-82 with a 4.23 ERA in nine seasons for Arizona (2011-14), Boston (2015), Seattle (2016), Baltimore (2016-17), Milwaukee (2018) and Houston.

He was an All-Star in 2012, when he went 16-11.

Rays sign Japanese slugger Tsutsugo

The Tampa Bay Rays and Japanese slugger Yoshimoto Tsutsugo have finalized a two-year contract worth about \$12 million.

The 28-year-old Tsutsugo was scheduled to be formally introduced by the Rays on Tuesday.

Tsutsugo was made available to major league teams through the posting process by Yokohama of Japan's Central League. The Rays will have to pay a posting fee of about \$2.4 million to his former club.

A left-handed-hitting outfielder, Tsutsugo batted .272 this year with 29 homers and 79 RBIs. He has a .285 average with 205 homers and 613 RBIs during 10 seasons with Yokohama.

LHP Rodriguez, Rangers finalize 2-year deal

Left-hander Joey Rodriguez and the Texas Rangers have finalized a \$5.5 million, two-year contract, a deal that could be worth \$8 million if a team option for 2022 is exercised.

A 28-year-old reliever who spent the past two seasons with the Chunichi Dragons of Japan's Central League, Rodriguez will get salaries of \$2.5 million in each of the next two seasons. Texas has a \$3 million option for 2022 with a \$500,000 buyout.

Rodriguez can earn \$500,000 annually in performance bonuses for games finished: \$50,000 each for 20 and each additional five through 45. He was 1-2 with a 5.40 ERA in 38 relief appearances for Philadelphia in 2016 and '17.



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

Cornerback Derek Stingley Jr., right, is one of three LSU players to make the Associated Press All-America first team.

AP All-America football teams dominated by LSU, Ohio State

By RALPH D. RUSSO

Associated Press

AP All-America team

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Quarterback — Joe Burrow, senior, LSU.

Running backs — Chuba Hubbard, sophomore, Oklahoma State; Jonathan Taylor, junior, Wisconsin.

Tackles — Penel Sewell, sophomore, Oregon; Andrew Thomas, junior, Georgia.

Guards — Wyatt Davis, sophomore, Ohio State; Kevin Dotson, senior, Louisiana-Lafayette.

Center — Tyler Biadacz, senior, Wisconsin.

Tight end — Harrison Bryant, senior, Florida Atlantic.

Wide receivers — Ja'Marr Chase, sophomore, LSU; CeeDee Lamb, junior, Oklahoma.

All-purpose player — Lynn Bowden Jr., junior, Kentucky.

Kicker — Keith Duncan, junior, Iowa.

DEFENSE

Ends — Chase Young, junior, Ohio State; James Lynch, junior, Baylor.

Tackles — Derrick Brown, senior, Auburn; Jaylin Kinlaw, senior, South Carolina.

Linebackers — Isaiah Simmons, junior, Clemson; Evan Weaver, senior, California; Micah Parsons, sophomore, Penn State.

Cornerbacks — Derek Stingley, freshman, LSU; Jeff Okudah, junior, Ohio State.

Safeties — Antoine Winfield Jr., sophomore, Minnesota; J.R. Reed, senior, Georgia.

Punter — Nick Duffy, junior, Kentucky.

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Quarterback — Justin Fields, sophomore, Ohio State.

Running backs — J.K. Dobbins, junior, Ohio State; Travis Etienne, junior, Clemson.

Tackles — Jerrick Wilks Jr., junior, Alabama; Tristan Wirfs, junior, Iowa.

Guards — Shane Lemieux, senior, Oregon; John Simpson, senior, Clemson.

Center — Creed Humphrey, sophomore, Oklahoma.

Tight end — Hunter Bryant, junior, Washington.

Wide receivers — Devonta Smith, junior, Alabama; Michael Pittman, senior, Southern California.

All-purpose player — Jaylen Wad-

die, sophomore, Alabama.

Kicker — Rodrigo Blankenship, senior, Georgia.

DEFENSE

Ends — A.J. Epenesa, junior, Iowa; Curtis Weaver, junior, Boise State.

Tackles — Jaylen Tywman, sophomore, Pittsburgh; Jordan Elliott, junior, Missouri.

Linebackers — Hamiller Rashad Jr., junior, Oregon State; Zack Baun, senior, Wisconsin; Jordyn Brooks, senior, Texas Tech.

Cornerbacks — Amik Robertson, junior, Louisiana Tech; Jaylon Johnson, junior, Utah.

Safeties — Julian Blackmon, senior, Utah; Grant Delpit, junior, LSU.

Punter — Braden Mann, senior, Texas A&M.

THIRD TEAM

OFFENSE

Quarterback — Jalen Hurts, senior, Oklahoma.

Running backs — Zack Moss, senior, Utah; AJ Dillon, junior, Boston College.

Tackles — Calvin Throckmorton, senior, Oregon; Colton McKivitz, senior, West Virginia.

Guards — Jonah Koltun, senior, Ohio State; Ben Bredeson, senior, Michigan.

Center — Matt Hennessy, junior, Temple.

Tight end — Charlie Kolar, sophomore, Iowa State.

Wide receivers — Omar Bayashod Bateman, sophomore, Minnesota.

All-purpose player — Brandon Aliyuk, senior, Arizona State.

Kicker — Nick Sciba, sophomore, Wake Forest.

DEFENSE

Ends — Bradley Aale, senior, Utah; Alex Highsmith, senior, Charlotte.

Tackles — Leki Fotu, senior, Utah; Neville Gallimore, senior, Oklahoma.

Linebackers — Logan Wilson, senior, Wyoming; Kenneth Murray, junior, Oklahoma; Malik Harrison, senior, Ohio State.

Cornerbacks — Trevon Diggs, senior, Alabama; Luc Barcoo, San Diego State.

Safeties — Tanner Muse, senior, Alabama; Xavier McKinney, junior, Alabama.

Punter — Sterling Hofrichter, senior, Syracuse.

NFL

Scoreboard

American Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	Pf	PA
x-New England	11	3	0	.786	372	181
x-Buffalo	10	4	0	.714	291	222
N.Y. Jets	5	9	0	.357	247	343
Miami	3	11	0	.214	241	435
South						
Houston	9	5	0	.643	341	330
Tennessee	8	6	0	.571	339	279
Indianapolis	8	6	0	.571	303	329
Jacksonville	5	9	0	.357	250	353
North						
y-Baltimore	12	2	0	.857	472	257
Pittsburgh	8	6	0	.571	269	259
Cleveland	8	6	0	.571	287	329
Cincinnati	1	13	0	.071	211	359
West						
y-Kansas City	10	4	0	.714	394	284
Oakland	10	4	0	.714	274	386
Denver	5	9	0	.357	239	284
L.A. Chargers	5	9	0	.357	299	290

National Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	Pf	PA
Dallas	7	7	0	.500	378	288
Philadelphia	7	7	0	.500	334	328
N.Y. Giants	3	11	0	.214	283	362
Washington	3	11	0	.214	215	347
South						
y-New Orleans	11	3	0	.786	378	303
Tampa Bay	7	7	0	.500	334	328
Atlanta	5	9	0	.357	329	365
Carolina	5	9	0	.357	324	390
North						
x-Green Bay	11	3	0	.786	330	283
Minnesota	10	4	0	.714	378	259
Chicago	7	7	0	.500	256	253
Detroit	3	10	1	.250	304	373
West						
x-San Francisco	11	3	0	.786	419	258
x-Seattle	11	3	0	.786	371	345
L.A. Rams	8	6	0	.571	332	306
Arizona	4	9	1	.321	310	398

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division title

Thursday, Dec. 12

Baltimore 42, N.Y. Jets 21

Sunday, Dec. 14

Kansas City 23, Denver 3

New England 34, Cincinnati 13

Houston 24, Tennessee 21

Philadelphia 36, Miami 20

Seattle 30, Carolina 24

Green Bay 21, Chicago 13

Atlanta 29, L.A. Chargers 10

Atlanta 29, San Francisco 22

Dallas 44, L.A. Rams 2

Pittsburgh 17, Pittsburgh 7

Monday's game

New Orleans 34, Indianapolis 7

Saturday's games

Houston at Tampa Bay

Buffalo at New England

L.A. Rams at San Francisco

N.Y. Giants at Washington

Cincinnati at N.Y. Jets

New Orleans at Tennessee

Baltimore at Cleveland

Carolina at Indianapolis

Jacksonville at Atlanta

Oakland at L.A. Chargers

Detroit at Philadelphia

Arizona at Seattle

Kansas City at Chicago

Monday, Dec. 23

Green Bay at Minnesota

Monday

Saints 34, Colts 7

Indianapolis 0 0 7-7

New Orleans 3 17 14 0-34

First quarter

NO-FG Lutz 33, 7:28.

Second quarter

NO-Thomas 15 pass from Brees (Lutz kick), 12:37.

NO-LSmith 21 pass from Brees (Lutz kick), 6:11.

NO-FG Lutz 26, 0:00.

Third quarter

NO-JHill 5 pass from Brees (Lutz kick), 7:08.

NO-THill 28 pass from Brees (Lutz kick), 3:55.

Fourth quarter

Ind-Wilkins 1 run (McLaughlin kick), 3:56.

A-73.053.

Ind Ind NO

First downs 16 27

Total Net Yards 205 424

Rushes-yards 17-46 33-117

Passing 159 307

Turnovers 0-0 3-29

Kickoff Returns 1-19 0-0

Interceptions Ret. 0-0 0-0

Comp-Att-Int 18-34-0 29-30-0

Sacked-Yards Lost 0-0 0-0

Punts 6-37.0 2-43.5

Fumbles-Lost 0-0 0-0

Penalties-Yards 7-49 6-52

Time of Possession 28:02 36:52

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Indianapolis: Mack 11-19, Hines 2-10, Wilkins 3-10, Brissett 1-7, New Orleans: Kamara 14-66, Murray 9-29, Washington 3-20, Line 2-4, Hill 2-1, New Orleans: Brissett 18-34, 0-165, New Orleans: Brees 29-30-0, 307.

RECEIVING—Indianapolis: Brissett 18-34, 0-165, New Orleans: Brees 29-30-0, 307, 4, New Orleans: Thomas 12-128, Kamara 5-23, Cook 4-54, Hill 2-42, Murray 2-20, Smith 1-21, Ginn 1-13, Hill 1-5, Harris 1-1.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

NFL, Raiders botched home finale

Bad call adds to late collapse that spoiled last game in Oakland

By ARNIE STAPLETON
Associated Press

The NFL and the Raiders both botched the final football game at Oakland's Alameda County Coliseum as the team prepares to pack up for Las Vegas in 2020.

A bad call contributed to a crushing late-game collapse by the Raiders that left the jilted Black Hole projecting venom and trash at the black and silver instead of celebrating one last hurrah with their heroes.

The Raiders (6-8) were in position to close out their quarter-century run in Oakland with a win when Derek Carr scampered for a first down and slid before reaching the sideline to make sure the clock would keep running.

The official erroneously ruled him out of bounds, which forced Oakland to run another play before the 2-minute warning, sparing Jacksonville from burning a timeout and giving the Jaguars an additional 40 seconds for a winning drive in a 20-16 victory in a game they trailed 16-3 at the half.

In the confusion that followed the call — which the NFL apologized to Jon Gruden for on Monday — Oakland got a delay of game penalty, Tyrrell Williams dropped a third-down pass and Daniel Carlson missed from 45 yards after a penalty gave him a do-over on his miss from 50 yards.

That set the stage for Gardner Minshew's touchdown toss



D. ROSS CAMERON/AP

Raiders quarterback Derek Carr, right, scrambles away from Jacksonville Jaguars defensive end Yannick Ngakoue during the second half of Sunday's game in Oakland, Calif. The Jaguars won 20-16.

to Chris Conley with 31 seconds left.

Gruden said he got an apology call from NFL officiating chief Al Riveron but was frustrated nothing could have been done at the time to rectify the mistake after several other calls this year get changed in New York.

"Why don't you stop the game and get the clock right? I don't think it was even close," Gruden said. "So, I'm not happy about it."

Among other noteworthy calls in Week 15: ■ The New England Patriots were trolled at Paul Brown Stadium in Cincinnati a week after the Patriots went retro by bringing back the term "Spygate" into the NFL lexicon by acknowledging that a video crew working for the

team filmed the Bengals' sideline in Cleveland a week ahead of their showdown in Cincinnati.

While the league ponies punishment for the repeat offenders, the stadium crew trolled the Patriots after Andy Dalton's touchdown throw to tight end Cethan Carter in the first quarter by playing Rockwell's "Somebody's Watching Me" over the stadium speakers.

■ LeShaun Sims' punt return hurt the Tennessee Titans' chances of a last-second comeback in their 24-21 loss to the Houston Texans that snapped a four-game winning streak.

Sims fielded the punt at the 1 as it was about to bounce into the end zone for a touchback. He returned it to the 12, costing his

team valuable seconds.

With 17 seconds left, Ryan Tannehill was sacked for an 8-yard loss. He clocked the ball with 1 second left, but the officials ruled he had taken the snap at 1 second and time had run out by the time he spiked it, so the game was over.

Not that the Titans had much of a chance to score a 96-yard TD, but the officials were wrong on that last call and Sims was wrong to field the punt as it was about to go for a touchback, and that cost them a few seconds and certainly one more chance to get into field-goal range to force overtime.

With contributions from AP pro football writers Josh Dubow and Teresa M. Walker.

Leader: Fourth straight loss finishes Colts' playoff hopes

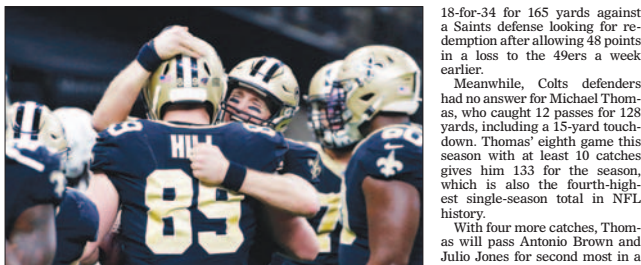
FROM BACK PAGE

He completed 29 of 39 passes — 96.7% — for 307 yards before being relieved by Teddy Bridgewater in the fourth quarter. That broke the mark Philip Rivers had held since completing 28 of 29 (96.6%) against Arizona last season.

"He had a hot hand, obviously," Payton said. "Guys were making plays, but that's awfully difficult to do."

The victory kept the Saints (11-3), who'd already won the NFC South, in the running with San Francisco (11-3) and Green Bay (11-3) for one of the top two seeds in the NFC playoffs. The Colts (6-8) were eliminated from playoff contention after losing their fourth straight and sixth out of seven.

"There's a lot at stake right now relative to these games when you look at the top of the NFC," Pay-



BUTCH DILLAP

Saints quarterback Drew Brees hugs tight end Josh Hill after breaking the NFL record for career touchdown passes during Monday's game against the Indianapolis Colts in New Orleans.

ton said. "It's about winning and winning and winning and trying to give yourself the best chance in

the postseason." Jacoby Brissett struggled at times with accuracy and finished

18-for-34 for 165 yards against the Saints defense looking for redemption after allowing 48 points in a loss to the 49ers a week earlier.

Meanwhile, Colts defenders had no answer for Michael Thomas, who caught 12 passes for 128 yards, including a 15-yard touchdown. Thomas' eighth game this season with at least 10 catches gives him 133 for the season, which is also the fourth-highest single-season total in NFL history.

With four more catches, Thomas will pass Antonio Brown and Julio Jones for second most in a season and needs 11 to eclipse Marvin Harrison's record of 143 from 2002.

TreQuan Smith caught a 21-yard touchdown pass for New Orleans.

Jordan Wilkins scored the Colts' lone TD on a 1-yard run in the fourth quarter.

SPORTS



AP All-America team
Tigers, Buckeyes dominate annual
squad » College football, Page 22



NFL

Another record

Brees breaks Manning's mark for career touchdown passes as Saints rout Colts

By **BRETT MARTEL**
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Drew Brees became the NFL's career leader in touchdown passes, throwing for four scores to lead the New Orleans Saints to a 34-7 victory over the Indianapolis Colts on Monday night.

The scoring strike that broke Peyton Manning's record of 539 career touchdown passes came in the third quarter, when Brees hit tight end Josh Hill for a 5-yard score. Brees' next pass in the game was the 541st scoring toss of his career, a 28-yard TD to reserve QB and

utility player Taysom Hill that put the Saints up 34-0.

"It was special, everything about the night," Brees said. "It just kind of makes your whole life and career flash before your eyes, because I never thought I'd have a chance to be part of something like this."

The 40-year-old Brees came into the game already holding NFL records for completions with 6,792 and yards passing with 72,577 — and built on those numbers by also setting a record for completion percentage in a game.

SEE LEADER ON PAGE 23



New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees celebrates his touchdown pass to tight end Josh Hill, which broke the NFL record for career touchdown passes.

BUTCH DILL / AP

Coyotes acquire Hall in trade with Devils

NHL, Page 21

Mavs end Bucks' winning streak at 18

NBA, Page 20

